

# Parents and Families Newsletter

## Fall 2024

All content will be trans-adapted for a Spanish version of the newsletter.

Other languages are available through the S'more newsletter.

Si le gustaría leer este boletín en español, por favor haga clic en el

[Boletín informativo para Padres y Familias.](#)

### Dear Parents and Families,

Children are back in school, and we know families are adjusting to new routines. At home, this can mean new after-school activities, regular bedtimes, and a new bus stop. At school there are also important routines to set up the new school year. September and October are typically the months when schools plan events for families and teachers to get to know one another.

Try to attend an open house, Meet the Teacher night, or other school events. If you can't, reach out to the teacher via email or phone call to get to know them. Teachers rely on parents to provide some background information on their child that will help them in the classroom. Strong parent/teacher partnerships are shown to improve a child's academic success. We wish you all the best as you begin the 2024-2025 school year.

Sincerely,

Emergent Bilingual Support Division

***In this issue, you will find more information on the following resources:***

[Outspell](#)



[EasyBib](#)



[FastWeb](#)



fastweb

# Announcements



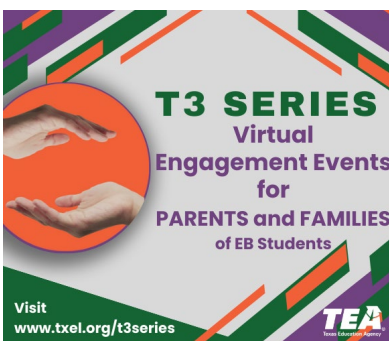
## Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15 to Oct 15, 2024

Spanish-speaking people have lived in America since the Spaniards established colonies in the 16th century. We celebrate Hispanic Heritage each year from September 15th to October 15th. Look for fun, family events in your community and inspire a conversation about your own family's heritage.

## Conference Opportunity

The Association for Migrant Education is hosting their annual statewide conference on November 20-22, 2024, in Corpus Christi, Texas. Parents, families, students, and educators will learn about important topics related to migrant families and hear from inspiring keynote speakers. Visit the [AMET website](#) for more information! .



## 2024-25 T3 Series Event for Parents and Families

Thursday, September 26, 2024 - 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. CDT.

This engagement series of virtual events offers opportunities for parents to learn about services and assessments for emergent bilingual students and supports for the family. [Register Today!](#)

# Benefits of Bilingualism



Parents of emergent bilingual students may be curious about the benefits of bilingualism, so we include information in each newsletter to increase awareness of those benefits. The diagram below outlines seven of these benefits included in the Texas Dual Language Immersion Framework (TxEDLIF). This quarter, we are focusing on increased graduation rates. [“Why Dual Language Works for Everyone,”](#) by Virginia Collier and Wayne Thomas explains that students who participate in dual language programs and maintain their home language typically outscore their monolingual peers on all tests and have dramatically higher graduation rates. More importantly, dual language students are happier, more engaged with instruction, and more confident.

Share these benefits with your child to encourage confidence in becoming bilingual. Even if your child does not have the opportunity to participate in a dual language program, you can encourage continued use of your home language to help your child stay on the path to bilingualism.

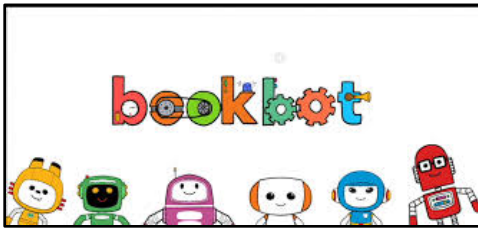
## Resource Center

The activities shared in our **“At-Home Learning”** section, below, will help develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Check out [past newsletters](#) for different activities in this section as well.

### At-Home Learning Sites for Students

The following educational websites are free resources schools have shared that will help your child improve their English language skills.

Don't forget to visit [txel.org/SupportingChild](http://txel.org/SupportingChild) for more interactive educational websites.



## [Bookbot](#)

**Target: FREE online Books**

**Recommended Grade Levels: All**

Bookbot offers a selection of free books with audio to be read at home. When it's time to read and your child doesn't have a book, go to Bookbot to find a free one.

1. Go to <https://www.bookbotkids.com/> and click "Free Books."
2. Scroll down and have your child select a Category.
3. Have your child click "Read Now" under the book of their choice and begin reading.
4. Click the arrows to move pages.
5. When finished with the book, be sure to talk about it with your child. Ask "What happened in the beginning, middle, and end?", "Who are the main characters?", and "What is the setting?"

You can download the app, so you can take reading anywhere you go, or download the PDF if you want to save the books for later.



## [Outspell](#)

**Target Skills: Vocabulary and Spelling**

**Recommended Grade Levels: K-12**

This is a spelling game that allows the player to select a difficulty level and score points based on the words created on a game board. The easiest way to use this resource is to:

1. Open [Outspell](#) and click the Play button.
2. Select your difficulty level or Practice Play.
3. Drag the letter tiles to the game board to build a word, then click Submit.
4. Your digital opponent will add their word, then you play again until the board is full.

This is a fun spelling game that can improve vocabulary and spelling skills. Your child can use it on a phone or computer.



## [EasyBib](#)

**Target Skills: Grammar Check**

**Recommended Grade Levels: 4-12**

Have your paper checked for grammar using this free online tool.

Whether your child is writing for class or not, a grammar check can help point out errors that can easily be fixed.

1. Open [EasyBib](#) and click "Check my Paper."
2. Type or upload your paragraph or page then click "Check my paper."
3. Review the suggestions and decide which changes you want to accept.

This is an easy way to check for capitalization, spelling, and punctuation before the teacher sees it! Don't forget to visit [txel.org/SupportingChild](http://txel.org/SupportingChild) for more interactive educational websites.

# At-Home Learning

Your child is developing language skills in at least two languages: your home language and English. Practice in both languages is valuable, and home language development creates a strong foundation for English development. The suggested activities below can happen in any language. For more resources, go to the [Supporting My Child page](#), then click on “Student Activities” on [TXEL.org](#).

## Reading Buddies



“[10 Minutes of Reading a Night Can Change Your Child’s Life](#),” is an article that explains that the more a child reads the better he or she will be at reading. One way to make reading more enjoyable is to have your child select a favorite stuffed animal to read with. While your child reads aloud, listen for words they might struggle with. You can add a flashlight to make nightly reading fun for your child, too!

## Sort Leaves

An easy way to practice using spoken language to describe items and groups is to have your child collect a pile of leaves and sort them into groups. Show them one way to sort, like by size to get them started and describe the groups for them: “These are sorted by size with one group of small leaves and one group of large leaves.” After you have shown them an example, have them sort them. Once they sort them, have your child describe the sort. (for example, I sorted mine into two piles: a yellow pile and a brown pile). This can be repeated as many times as time permits using different characteristics, like size. This simple activity will help your child develop skills that will be useful in reading, writing, math, and science.



## Write a Lesson

Emergent bilingual students are asked to describe, write and compare things for the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS). Ask your child to explain one thing they learn weekly to help build writing skills. The practice of doing this will help them become comfortable writing. Have them read it to you and you can check for clarity.



# College and Career Prep

The logo for fastweb, featuring the word "fastweb" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. The "f" is a dark blue color, and the rest of the letters are black. The logo is set against a light blue rectangular background.

## Fall must-dos for high school students

Fastweb offers suggestions for each grade level to keep your child on track for college. Look at the list below and visit the [Fastweb website](#) to learn more.

### Freshman:

1. Work hard and stay attentive in class.
2. Experiment with extracurricular activities and join one you're interested in.

### Sophomore:

1. Continue to work hard in class and keep committed to extracurricular activities.
2. Get ready for the PSAT. Find out when it's scheduled and look for resources to practice.

### Junior:

1. Focus on the SAT and ACT. Take practice tests and read literary classics for examples to draw from in your writing prompts.
2. Compile a list of colleges you're interested in. Be sure to include a variety--those that you will definitely be accepted to and those that are more challenging.

### Senior:

1. Perform better than ever in classes and lead extracurricular activities. Make campus visits and show them your high level of interest by sitting in on a class. Get applications organized and make sure you don't miss deadlines. They start as early as October.

## Self-Care Tips

Parents and families can become overwhelmed during the fall season after a summer break. Be sure to schedule time to relax with your child to prevent stress. Early mornings, schoolwork, homework, and extracurricular activities can take a toll on the most energetic people. A 15-minute scheduled time to relax after dinner can go a long way in recharging ourselves. It also provides a time to reflect on the day and discuss upcoming events as a family. Take time for yourself and your child every day to keep calm.

# Final Thoughts

## Fall

With the new school year under way, parents and students alike are facing new challenges. Take time to enjoy the journey by scheduling at-home learning activities that you can do together. Listening, speaking, reading, and writing in any language will support continued growth. For more ideas on what you can do at home to support your child, visit the [Supporting My Child](#) page. Don't forget to fill out a quick survey to share any information or suggestions you might have for the next newsletter. We value your input!

## Previous Newsletters

All of our Newsletters can be found on the [Newsletters Page](#) on the TXEL.org website. Click through the past editions to find additional information and resources designed for you and your child.



### Newsletters

Welcome to the Parents and Families Newsletter. The purpose of the newsletter is to provide information and resources that are relevant, accessible, and impactful to support parent, families, and community partners to ensure the academic success of the State's emergent bilingual students. Remember that S'more translates to all languages through the translate button in the top right corner.

Featured Editions  
In English

Ediciones destacadas  
en español

# Subscribe to the Site



Stay informed about the resources and support available by subscribing to TEA's Txel.org web portal. Click on [Subscribe Today!](#)

## Supporting Emergent Bilingual Students in Texas

[TXEL.org](https://www.txel.org) is a web portal that provides information and resources that are relevant, accessible, and impactful to support educational leaders, teachers, parents and families, and community partners to ensure the academic success of the State's emergent bilingual students.



Contact us at: <https://www.txel.org/contact/>

Email: [EnglishLearnerSupport@tea.texas.gov](mailto:EnglishLearnerSupport@tea.texas.gov)

Visit: [www.tea.texas.gov](http://www.tea.texas.gov)