

Our publishing company, Skillful & Soulful Press, is an independent, award-winning publisher of bilingual children's books that promote a love of language and literacy. We encourage the learning of exciting new words that help children feel empowered.

Overview:

According to Blachowicz and Fisher (2005), "words are the *currency* of education". A goal of this presentation is to inspire parents to believe that they are rich with words. Furthermore, that they understand that their home language is a valuable treasure that must be shared with their children. Parents are crucial to their children's vocabulary development regardless of their socio-economic status. This presentation will build on parents' strengths and highlight that they already own abundant words that they can *invest* into their child's *word bank*. By doing so, they help increase their child's receptive and expressive vocabulary that enriches their school and life experience. Practical ideas will be shared that guide them toward the kinds of home language and literacy activities that help children achieve the educational success parents want for their children.

Social Impact:

The proposed session for parents promotes a strength-based approach for increasing young children's language skills. It is also a proactive response to addressing what some reading experts refer to as "word poverty or gap" that exists particularly in communities of color. This gap in words describes the disparity between the number of words that children from families of disadvantaged economic backgrounds hear compared to children from families of more affluent economic backgrounds. Research indicates that young children who hear new and interesting words are better prepared to succeed when they enter school.

Goal: Session will focus on empowering parents/caretakers to enhance language experiences so they increase the number of words children see, hear, and learn

Language: The session can be presented in English or Spanish

Duration: Can be modified to meet the needs of the group. The ideal time is 1.5 hours minimum; Mix of lecture, discussion, and dynamic activities

Group Size: The ideal number for an interactive experience is 15 to 50 participants

Cost: \$1,100 for one session, any size group and up to 2 hours (*price effective January 2025*)
*Plus mileage/travel expenses from Whittier, California

Contact: Sandra Gonzalez-Mora, M.Ed. (626) 664-6471 or skillfulsoulful@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.skillfulandsoulful.com/>

Teacher Resource: Blachowicz, C.L.Z. & Fisher, P.J., (2005). Integrated vocabulary instruction: Meeting the needs of diverse learners in grades K-5,
<https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED489512.pdf>