



## Parent Involvement with Spanish-speaking Parents in Texas

- 1) There has been a growing Latino immigrant population over the last 40 years.
- 2) There is a need for effective materials specifically for this population.
- 3) Materials should reflect the social, cultural and linguistic knowledge of Latino families to truly engage parents and build real skill sets.
- 4) Bilingual materials work well with Spanish speaking parents and their children.



## Key Trends

- 1) There is a clear connection between being able to read and speak English and whether or not Latino youth graduate from high school or become involved with gangs. (Source: California State Department of Education)
- 2) Latinos comprised 56% of the entire population growth over a 10 year span- the fastest growing population. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2010)
- 3) 50.5 million Latinos in the USA - this includes immigrants, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generations. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2010)
- 4) 1 in every 4 children is Latino - this includes immigrants, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generations. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2010)
- 5) Latinos lead the nation in poverty rate. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2010)
- 6) Latinos are a diverse population, but by far the majority have come from Mexico at 65.5%. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2010)
- 7) Annual Hispanic Dropouts in Texas: Grades 9 -12 is 61%. (Source: Texas Educational Agency)
- 8) Latinos lead the nation in dropouts at 45%. (Source: The U.S. Census Bureau)

## Considerations for a Parent Engagement Program

In a family literacy setting, it is important for staff to be trained in a culturally competent framework based on research and a proven best practice for a family-centered approach to consider the following:

- Language and literacy skills of the parents
- Educational experiences of the parents and how are they transferring
- Acculturation - the process of learning to live in a new country
- Socioeconomic influences and understanding families living in poverty
- Family changes
- Community approach

## 3 Steps to Building Parent Leadership and Capacity

- 1) Parents can attend a program and participate as a parent.
- 2) Parents can be trained to be a leader in the program from which they have graduated.
- 3) Parents can assist the teacher or facilitator familiar with curriculum and outcomes.

The Latino Family Literacy Project are experts in providing Staff Development for effective Parental Involvement programs for family reading, vocabulary, English skills, and College Awareness. For more information and for **bilingual books**, please visit our website at [www.Lecturabooks.com](http://www.Lecturabooks.com).