Challenges for the Latino Learner

- View mathematics through a Hispanic cultural lens
- Takes 5-7 years to learn academic vocabulary
- Family culture encourages children to stay at home rather than attend pre-K programs
- Acculturation period, even for U.S. born Latinos, when entering American schools
- 43% of U.S. born children of immigrants do not speak English "very well"
- Stress related to citizenship status of family members
- Low expectations from teachers
- Lack of cultural understanding among educators
- Difficulty engaging parents due to language barriers

Culturally Relevant Information

- Parents place high value on education for their family
- High regard for family interdependence and loyalty
- Positive view of education system and teaching profession
- Religion plays an important role in the culture of Latinos
- Children respect their parents and strive to please the family
- Proud of heritage and expect culture to be treated with dignity
- Family's role is to instill cultural, behavioral, and moral values
- Parents see school's role as providing education and respectfully maintaining boundaries

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Best Practices for Supporting Latino Learners

Cultural Considerations

- Use culturally relevant curriculum to engage students in mathematical learning
- Incorporate projects, activities, and tasks that allow students to access background knowledge
- Embrace cultural knowledge as a resource rather than a barrier

Social Considerations

- Provide teacher, peer, and school community support to promote academic success
- Maintain high expectations with appropriate support
- Allow bilingual classroom discussion
- Permit collaboration and discussion to deepen understanding
- Realize high engagement often brings multimodal communication
- Create mathematical opportunities that allow students to participate socially
- Recognize the collective effort rather than always emphasizing the individual effort

Best Practices for Supporting Latino Learners

Cognitive Resources

- Provide cognitively challenging learning environment to maintain high expectations
- Develop rich tasks with adequate support to make student thinking visible
- Encourage academic engagement through questioning
- Show support by recognizing growth and achievement

Family Resources

- Be flexible with time and use multiple forms of communication when dealing with families
- Invite parents to become involved partners by having a formal arena in which they can share their ideas and concerns
- Do not misinterpret lack of parental involvement as lack of caring
- Make expectations clear for academics and behavior
- Make families aware of the connection between current academic efforts and future opportunities