Engaging Heritage Spanish Speakers

Heritage Speakers are:
1. Raised in homes where a non-English language is spoken
2. Speak or merely understand the heritage language
3. Are to some degree bilingual in English and the heritage language.

Effective strategies for engaging heritage Spanish speakers

Vocabulary Development
Engage students through vocabulary development. Use strategies to promote language instruction through comprehensible input.

Literacy Development
Having access to reading material in heritage languages and using literacy development strategies are helpful in maintaining competence in heritage language.

Cooperative Learning
Cooperative learning builds collaboration. Research has consistently endorsed the use of structured cooperative learning as a major strategy for teaching in diverse learning environments. While good for all, in Hispanic students, cooperative learning provides learners with essential opportunities to use language in meaningful, purposeful, and interesting ways, build self-esteem and self-confidence, and develop academic, communication, and social skills.

Culturally Relevant Instruction
Culturally responsive teaching recognizes the importance of including students' cultural references in all aspects of learning, enriching classroom experiences and keeping students engaged as well as helping students find and value their own voices, histories, and cultures.

Start your ripple effect of change!

Change attitudes!

Change mindsets!

Change dispositions!

“Language is the road map of a culture. It tells you where its people come from and where they are going.”

- Rita Mae Brown

Sources:
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