

Bilingual families

Advice for parents

Did you know?

Young children can learn languages much more easily than adults. And can usually learn two languages or even more at the same time without any difficulties at all!

Their first language is a base for any new languages they learn later. Children will learn English more easily if their first language is developing well.

Children who learn more than one language have many benefits in school and in life. They can transfer learning between languages and this can help them do well in education and in exams.

How can you help?

- ✓ You can help your child develop language best by using your own first language regularly with them. You will be able to use this language most consistently and naturally.
- ✓ It is fine for different family members to use different languages with your child at home. Your child won't be confused by this and will learn both these home languages.
- ✓ Even when they have started to learn English well, it is important to keep using and developing their home language too. This will help them to understand and use harder English as they get older.
- ✓ Carrying on using their home language with them will mean that they will be able to speak with other members of their family such as grandparents who do not speak English.
- ✓ Make sure you make time to talk to your child in your home language about things that are happening at school, their lessons and what they are learning.

Remember, it is a big advantage for your child to have the chance to learn more than one language well! Make sure you do everything you can to help them keep this advantage for life 😊