

How can I help my child develop home language and English?

Early Years

- Talk and play with your child in your home language and English.
- Sing nursery rhymes and songs.
- Talk about books in your home language.
- Talk about what you are doing e.g. at mealtimes, after school.

Older children

- Read fact and fiction books in home language and English.
- Encourage children to keep in touch with extended family.
- Listen to the radio and watch television in your home language.
- Use home language websites to find information. Children can look up information in home languages and English.
- Encourage your child to use a dictionary. This will extend vocabulary and help to compare languages.



Reading with your child



- Sing nursery rhymes together: listen to nursery rhymes from your country: <http://www.mamalisa.com/>
- Listen to the letter sounds in English together: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6gxxLnfS5Ts>
- Listen to audio books or story CDs together. Borrow books and audio books from the library.
- Choose books, comics, recipes, posters that you both enjoy.
- Tell your child stories in your home language.
- Show your child the print and read together in English or in your home language.
- Ask your child questions in your home language about the English books they are reading.
- Ask the school if they have dual language books to use at home. Bilingual books can be purchased at <http://uk.mantralingua.com/>



English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Information for parents and carers



BILINGUALISM

Talk with your child in your most fluent languages

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Bilingualism

The majority of children all over the world grow up using more than one language. 'Bilingual' or 'multilingual' mean that a person uses more than one language in their everyday lives. It does not mean that a person has the same skills in all his or her languages.

Advantages

- Using two or more languages gives a child different ways of thinking.
- It develops self confidence and confidence in learning.
- It increases pride in identity and culture.
- A child who uses home language well is more likely to develop good English.
- Using home language is important for maintaining family relationships.
- It is the easiest way to express emotions.
- Many employers look for people who can speak, read and write other languages.



Questions and concerns

Will it be difficult for my child to learn more than one language?

No; the majority of people in the world speak more than one language. Children can start from birth.

In my family we speak more than one language. Which one should we use when talking to our child?

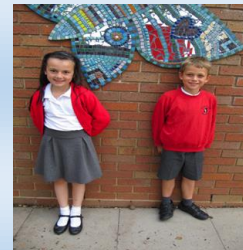
Each family member should use their strongest and most natural language. It is important that children have a strong home language. This will help them to learn English quickly. The stronger the home language the easier it is to learn an additional language.

My child mixes both languages. What should I do?

Mixing languages is a natural stage when learning two languages. Your child will work out the different vocabulary and rules and separate them eventually.

My child has started school and wants to use English instead of home language.

Children speak the languages they hear most. They want to fit in with their friends. This rejection may be short, but it is not advisable to try to force children to change the language they want to use.



My English is not very good. How can I help my child?

Speak your home language with your child because you will provide a good model of language. You can discuss homework and books in any language.

How can I help my child to read and write?

It is important to share books with your child and to read for pleasure. You may want your child to attend supplementary school to learn to read and write in home language.

My home language uses a different script. Will this be confusing?

Children can learn to write successfully in different scripts.

My child finds it hard to read and write in home language. Will it be difficult in English too?

Literacy difficulties can transfer across languages. Talk to your child's EAL teacher and tell them about any difficulties in home language. This will help school to support your child.

