

English as an Additional Language (EAL) Advice for Parents

Supporting your child in the home language



Supporting your child's home language supports the development of English:

Talk to your child in your strongest language. If your child learns one language well from you, it will be easier for them to learn English or another language. Use your home language when out and about with your child. Encourage your child to feel proud of their home language and of knowing more than one language.

Being bilingual is an advantage and is NOT the cause of a language delay.

Children who grow up being bilingual can have wider access to jobs, friendships, travel and culture. Bilingualism does not cause communication disorders.

When children start Nursery they may not talk as much for a little while. This is normal and will pass with time.

This is sometimes called 'the silent period' and is often seen by practitioners at the child's setting. This is fine – your child will still be listening and learning. Your child's setting can monitor this and will continue to support them.



How you can help

Talk with your child at home in your 'best' language.

This will influence how well and quickly they are able to learn another language. It helps if they hear you speak confidently and naturally in the language you're most comfortable with. It doesn't matter which language they use just keep the conversation going.

Share books with your child at home in your 'best' language.

Sharing books with your child will help them to learn new words. It's good for them to hear stories in your home language.

Sing nursery rhymes with your child at home in your 'best' language.

Singing songs and rhymes in your home language will help to support your child's language development. It's also lots of fun!



Remember!



Talking to your child in their home language is a great way to give them the skills to learn other languages.

