

Learning 2 or more Languages Information for Parents



Learning two or more languages is an advantage.

Things you can do to help:

- It is always beneficial to speak to your child in **your** first language.
- **Talk to your child in your own language as often as possible:**
 - Read books together
 - Talk about what you are doing
 - Have fun with rhymes, poems and songs
 - Play games
- It will not help your child if you stop speaking your own language with them.
- Try speaking English at school and your own language at home.
- If Mum and Dad speak different languages, then it can help if you each talk in your own first language.
- Help your child feel proud of your language and culture. Teach him the names of the languages.
- If he uses English words, accept this - do not correct him or make him use your language. However you might want to repeat what he said in your own language.

Things you should know:

- Most children who learn English as a second language will begin to understand English after 3 months.
- When children are first learning another language, they might go through a quiet period which can last many months.
- Children will usually begin using 2-3 word sentences in English 18 months after they start learning. They can usually have conversations after about 2 years.
- Children may mix words from both languages in the same sentence. This is common in children learning 2 languages and is not usually a problem.
- If children have a speech or language disorder this will be present in *both* languages.

If your child is having difficulties learning English as an additional language then please ask your school/nursery to contact the EAL service.