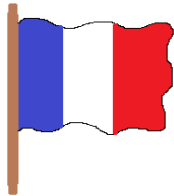


Learning more than one language

There are many advantages to learning two or more languages. Not only does it allow children to keep in touch with family and friends but it can also help with their literacy skills later in life. Learning two languages does not cause speech and language difficulties if it is done in the correct way. Below are some general tips that you can use to help your child to learn their languages.

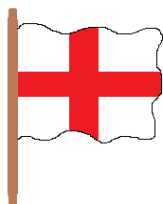
Separate the languages - Try not to mix the languages together as this can lead to confusion. Try to keep the languages separate e.g. mum speak one language and dad the other, speak one language at home and the other at school or carry out an activity each day in the other language.

Encourage your child to look at books, play games, sing songs and play with toys using all languages.



Start from birth - Babies exposed to two languages from birth find it easier to learn the languages than children who have a new language introduced to them later in life.

Practice - A child needs to hear the languages and have chance to practice them in order to use them. Just like if we had to learn a new language we would need to hear the words. Talk to your child as much as possible and comment on what they are doing in the language being used at the time.



Correction - It's ok if the child mixes their languages whilst they are learning. It maybe that they are unsure of how to say the sentence correctly. Simply model the sentence back to them correctly in the language being used at the time.

Reassurance - You may find that your child may become shy or quiet when learning a new language or starting a new school that speaks a different language. Simply reassure them that it will get easier and that there is no pressure on them to talk.

It is common for a child to go through a quiet period when they are first exposed to a new language.

