

My child is mixing up the languages he is learning. He is saying words from both languages in one sentence.

- All children learning more than one language will mix up two languages sometimes,
- This is a normal stage of dual language development.
- Children will work out the different vocabulary and rules of the two languages in time, through use and practice.

My family speak several different languages. What should we do to support our child's language?

- Each member of the family should speak the language/s that come most naturally to them.
- Children learn languages best when they hear a correct, fluent and natural model. This will give them a good foundation to learn many more languages through life



Did you know?

- 1 in 10 children in the UK have difficulties with their speech and language
- It is possible for a child to be bilingual and have a speech and language delay.
- If you are worried about your child's speech and language development, contact

Bilingualism

Learning more than one Language

Speak to your child in your first language



Will learning more than one language make my child talk later than others?

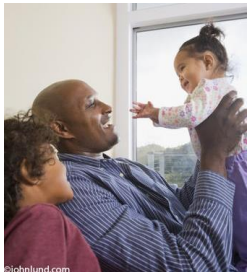
- Bilingualism does not cause language delay!
- Your child may begin to use some 'spoken words' a little later than other children as it is taking him/her time to match a new word to their existing word knowledge and concept.
- Your child should speak/talk in his first language the same time as children learning one language

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

- No! 75% of the worlds population are bilingual.
- There are 30 times more languages than there are countries in the world.
- Children can start learning more than one language from birth.
- Research has shown that children who have learnt two languages can have educational advantages

I speak more than one language. Which one should I use when talking with my child?

- Use your strongest language. Children need a solid foundation in language and communication. They get this by hearing a good language model that is correct and fluent.
- Don't worry if you mix languages when you are talking. It is natural for people who speak more than one language to do this.



My child has started Nursery/school and has begun using English instead of our home language. Is this okay for his/her language development?



- This is typical as children will use languages they hear and are surrounded with.
- Maintain speaking your first language at home and your child will begin to develop a knowledge of both.

Is it okay for me to speak my home language when my child speaks to me in English?

- Yes! Your child will understand that there are two languages and will learn to effectively 'switch' between them as he becomes more confident.
- By speaking your home language you will help your child to keep developing their skills
- If your child is able to use your home language fluently it will help them communicate with your whole family.

