

English as an additional Language Advice

Children acquiring their additional language within **normal limits**

- Parents should be encouraged to speak the language that they feel can provide the best speech and language model
- Supporting the development of the home language will enhance the learning of English
- It is okay for children to speak in their home language in school and mix their native language and English in a sentence.
- The quality of parent-child interaction is most important
- Children learning an additional language may say nothing for several months as they go through a silent period. This is a natural process
- Give the child sufficient time to listen and become familiar with the new language (English) in school
- Bilingualism has a positive influence on the child's development
- Concepts learnt in their native language can be transferred to other languages
- Recent research suggests that learning to speak more than one language has a positive impact on the child's cognitive development.

Further information about bilingualism can be found here:

<http://www.londonsigbilingualism.co.uk/>