

Speaking more than one language at home

Use your first language to help natural interaction between you and your child.

- Talk to your child about what you're doing together in the language you're most comfortable with and are most fluent in. This will help them to tune in to the language's sounds and musical patterns.
- Use the language you feel most comfortable with in that moment; allow your child to do the same (they may respond in a different language from the one you are using and this is ok).
- Your child will learn English more easily if they have a good knowledge of their first language. Children need to hear a language spoken a lot to be able to speak it themselves.
- You can separate out the languages you use, e.g. daddy uses one language, mummy uses another; or home language at home, English at nursery. Tell your child the names of the language so they know the difference between the two and can compare and contrast them later on.
- Some families find it useful to add signs or gestures as they are the same in different languages.
- Have fun with stories, rhymes and songs in your language. If you can, read books together in your language.
- Remember your child will learn English easily once they start school and English may quickly become their main language. The pre-school years may be the best chance your child has to learn their home language well.
- There is evidence that a child who knows more than one language is more able to think in new directions and to learn new languages later on.

Click on the video links below for more information

- [1. Should I speak more than one language to my child? - BBC Tiny Happy People](#)
- [2. Switching between different languages - BBC Tiny](#)
- [3. Learning languages through play - BBC Tiny Happy People](#)

