

Speaking more than one language

Did you know?

- More than half of the world's population can speak more than one language fluently.
- Studies have shown that speaking more than one language at home can support children's cognitive development and social understanding and can help them become better communicators.
- There is no evidence that speaking more than one language confuses children or delays their development.
- It is completely natural for your child to mix and switch between the languages they are learning, as you may do.



Speak to your child in your own language

Your child learns best from a confident speaker. With one secure language they are more likely to learn another well, so do not worry if your child does not know English before starting nursery.

Do what feels natural

Speak in a way that is natural to you and your family. Have fun with games, rhymes, stories and songs, giving your child opportunities to hear, speak and interact in your home language.

What can I do?

Encourage your child to communicate in any language

The focus should be on helping your child feel successful in passing on their message and understanding messages from you. Even if your child answers you in English, it's ok to respond and repeat back in your own language.

