

Maintaining your home language - Tips FROM parents TO parents

Tips	
1	For all ages: Watch TV shows and films in your home language. Afterwards have a conversation about the plot, characters and so on.
2	Identify a time each day when you will speak in your home language - this could be during a car journey or at the dinner table. Make sure to choose topics that your child is interested in so that they take an active part in the conversation!
3	Explain what it means to live in bilingual family environment. For example explain that you feel more comfortable speaking in your home language and therefore enjoy conversations in your home language, and you would really like it if your child could speak to you in your home language. Talk about the advantages that come from learning two (or more) languages as children, for example communicating with people in other countries and having a much easier time than other people who try to learn a second language later in life.
4	Go digital. Have all the electronic devices in set to the home language and with older children text and email only in the home language.
5	Books and music. Singing in the home language is fun for younger children and rhymes make it easier to remember words. Reading aloud in the home language is also beneficial - and with older children will build vocabulary and grammar.
6	Provide opportunities to speak the home language with friends - for example attending a Saturday school or playgroup, but also using Skype, Facetime or WhatsApp to communicate with family back home.

Reference:

'The Benefits of multilingualism in the Family', a leaflet from the University of Reading, Centre for literacy and Multilingualis

Useful websites

<p>A. Bell Foundation - information for parents</p>	<p>Short guides for parents, easy to understand, translated into the 20 most commonly used first languages in UK schools, covers:</p> <p>1) Getting involved in school life 2) How to support your child's learning</p>	<p>https://www.bell-foundation.org.uk/eal-programme/guidance/parental-involvement/</p>
<p>B. British Council - Learn English, helping your child learn English</p>	<p>Advice about helping your child to learn English.</p>	<p>https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/helping-your-child</p>
<p>C. British Council - Learn English, getting started for kids</p>	<p>For children aged 5-12 who want to have fun learning English. Free online games, songs, stories, videos and activities.</p>	<p>https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/getting-started-for-kids</p>
<p>D. The School Run</p>	<p>The School Run helps parents to understand what their children are learning at primary school.</p>	<p>https://www.theschoolrun.com/</p>
<p>E. BookTrust: "Dedicated to encouraging families of all cultures to engage with books."</p>	<p>Leaflets for parents of children aged: 0-12 months, 3-4 years, 5-6 years. Available in over 20 languages.</p>	<p>https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/reading-tips/</p>
<p>F. Mantralingua</p>	<p>A publisher of dual-language children's books and digital resources.</p>	<p>http://uk.mantralingua.com/</p>
<p>G. World Stories</p>	<p>A growing collection of traditional stories and new short stories from around the world in the languages most spoken by UK children. Read online, some audio recordings.</p>	<p>https://worldstories.org.uk/</p>
<p>G. International Children's Digital Library</p>	<p>A digital library of children's books from around the world - available to read online.</p>	<p>http://en.childrenslibrary.org/</p>