

Speech and Language Therapy Service

Growing up with more than one language

NHS

Leeds Community
Healthcare
NHS Trust

The better your child learns your language, the easier learning English will be later on.

It helps your child to value and share your culture and traditions.

Information for parents and carers

It helps your child communicate with their wider family and community.

Schools and teachers know that it helps your child's thinking and learning as the child gets older.



Some tips for helping your child to learn your own language

- Talk to your child in your own language(s), the ones you are fluent and confident to speak in (don't worry if this is not English). Your child will have opportunities to learn English in school or nursery.
- If you're speaking English to your child and your English isn't as good as your own language this may actually cause your child more difficulties.
- Talk about what you are doing in your language (even before your baby is born as they can hear your voice and language).
- Sing songs, rhymes in your own language with your child.
- Share any picture books in your own language.



If you are worried about how your child is learning their own language, please contact your Health Visitor

Further information on helping your child learn more than one language can be found at:

- www.literacytrust.org.uk/early-years/bilingual-quick-tips
- www.talkingpoint.org.uk/multi-lingual
- www.leedscommunityhealthcare.nhs.uk/toolkit/bilingualism

Don't forget!

Your child will learn language much better from playing and talking with you than from any screen time (e.g. TV, tablets and other electronic devices).