

## Teaching Children Whose First Language is not English

If you are concerned about my language development in English, ask my parents about my first language development.

Bilingualism is a great advantage. Bilingual children with good literacy development in both languages score better on IQ tests than monolinguals.

I might be quiet for up to a year once I have arrived in school in the UK – don't worry this is called a silent period and is normal.

Please encourage my parents to continue to speak to me in my first language at home.

I am learning English as a second language . . .

I need cognitive challenges – just because English isn't my first language doesn't mean I am not intelligent!



It may take me up to 7 years to develop proficiency in academic language – please be patient!

If you have bilingual support, help me to learn new vocabulary and concepts in my first language as well as English.

When I mix English and my first language it is a sign of grammatical sophistication, so don't worry – I am doing fine!

