

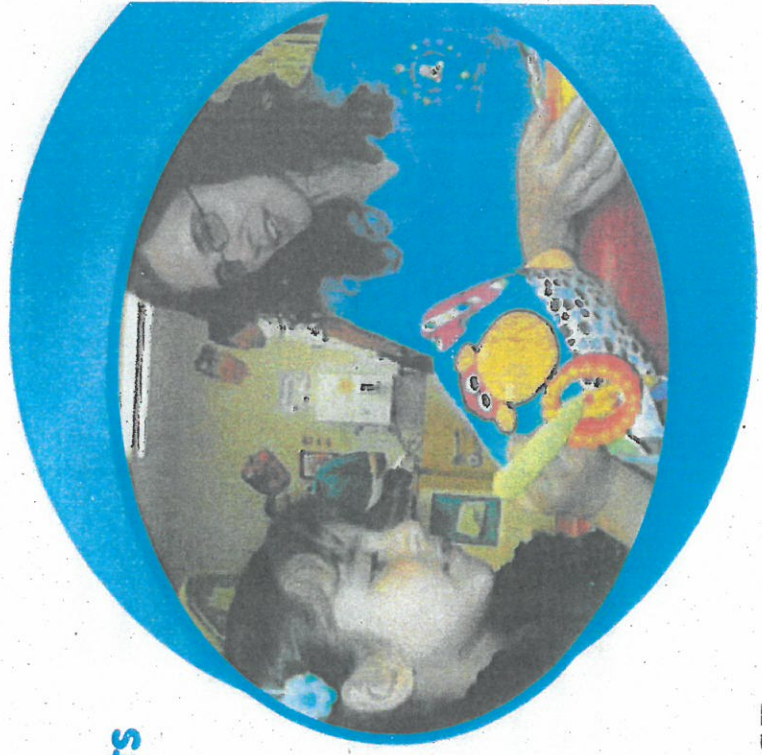
As long as a child has a strong foundation in their home language, there should be no difficulties learning another language when it is part of their everyday life.

My child is learning more than one language...

When should I ask for help

- Is your child finding it difficult to learn the language they hear most often?
- Are you concerned about your child's talking? If so, speak to your Health Visitor, Doctor, Local Children's Centre or your child's pre-school (if they go to one).

A guide for parents



Developed by Peterborough
Strength and Language Development
Children's Centres

Stimulates your child's brain and encourages flexible thinking

Helps your child maintain a sense of who they are

Advantages of learning

more than one

language

Lets your child continue to talk to family members who don't know both languages

Lets your child be part of more than one community

When your young child knows one language well, it may make learning a second language easier

May provide job opportunities later on in life e.g. an interpreter

What to expect when learning a second language

When learning a second language, research shows it takes up to 2 years to develop a basic social language, however it takes 5-7 years to develop the language needed for academic success.

Your child may...

- mix the two languages within a sentence
- go through a 'silent period'
- muddle up the word order in a sentence in their second language
- echo what you say when you speak in their second language

Top tips to help your child

Speak the language you feel most comfortable with - it is what you say that is important rather than the language you use.

Use short sentences and lots of gestures, facial expressions and an interesting voice.

Encourage your child's attempts to communicate in either language and give lots of praise.

Use rhymes and stories from either culture/ language but use your home language to talk about them.

