



Learning English as an Additional Language

10 Top Tips

Multilingualism is considered an advantage and enhances the opportunities for people to communicate with a wider group.

Advice for early years practitioners:

- ★ Encourage families to continue speaking to their child in their first language as children will learn English from this strong foundation.
- ★ Request key words and phrases in a child's first language to ensure shared communication.
- ★ Tune in to children, show them you are interested and notice their non-verbal communication.
- ★ Provide children with time to listen, process and respond if they wish.
- ★ Enhance your communication by using gestures, actions and facial expressions to support language.
- ★ Introduce new words through first-hand experiences and with concrete items.
- ★ Use visuals and objects of reference alongside language to support understanding.
- ★ Ensure a strong focus on stories, singing and rhyme and provide lots of opportunities for repetition.
- ★ Provide a good selection of resources which reflect the interests, culture and language of the children in the group.
- ★ Note that many children new to English experience a 'silent period' and this may last for several months but is not usually a cause for concern.

To understand more about bilingual considerations see [Reading-Early-Communication-Action-Tool.pdf \(brighterfuturesforchildren.org\)](https://www.brighterfuturesforchildren.org/reading-early-communication-action-tool.pdf)