

Bilingualism is speaking more than one language.  
Speaking more than one language is common in many parts of the world.



**Being bilingual is an advantage and can improve academic ability and flexible thinking.**

**There is no link between bilingualism and language difficulties.**

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## Important Information

If your child can understand and speak in their home language, they are likely to learn a second language quickly.

When children are learning two or more languages at the same time, they will use words from both languages in the same sentence. This is a normal part of language development.

When children are introduced to a new language, e.g. at nursery or school, they may not speak there for a time. This is a period of listening and learning. If this period continues for longer than a few months, consider a Request for Help call.

# More information

## TOP TIPS

- Speak to your child in the language you are most comfortable in. This means that your child will hear a good model of language to learn from.
- If your child has a good knowledge of their home language, they will be able to learn a second language more quickly.
- Accept all attempts to communicate in whatever language is used.
- Use books, nursery rhymes and songs in your home language.
- Share 10-20 important words in your home language with your child's nursery or school.
- Don't compare a bilingual child's language to one who is only learning one language.

The Speech and Language Therapy service works with bilingual children who are having difficulties understanding and speaking in their home language, stammering, pronouncing sounds or eating and drinking.

