



ABBNEYFIELD SCHOOL

Home Languages
in School

What Parents Can Do for Year 7/8 children

Make it fun. Learning from home is hard work for everyone involved, so try and make time for different activities. These can be done in any language. For example: draw a picture instead of writing, create a song about a math's problem, use virtual tours for geography..

Talk, talk, talk to your child. Talking has many benefits. Interesting conversations can form some foundations for learning. Ask questions, ask about what they are doing, what they need to do and ask about progress. Again, these can be done in both languages.

Homework. Homework can be done in both English and your home language.

- Explain the homework in your home language but use English for spelling.
- Math can be in both languages.
- Your child can ask a question in English and you can answer in your home language.
- You could talk about the subject just using your home language, but then your child completes all the writing in English.

Older Children. As your child starts studying complex subjects for their GCSE exams using your home language becomes more problematic. But you can still discuss topics in your home language throughout their education journey.



Using Home Languages to Support Learning at Home

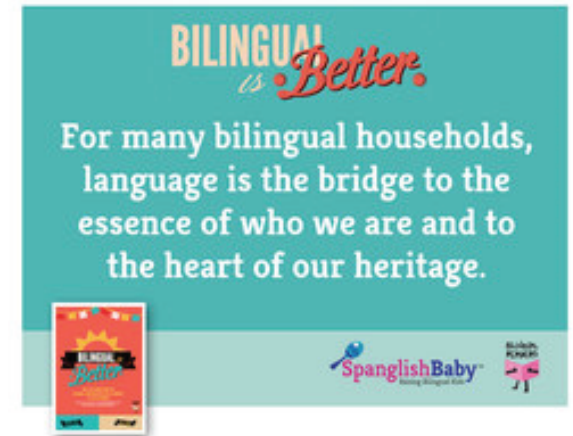
Schools are going to be sending a lot of work home in these unusual times. This leaflet is a guide as to how, you as parents, can support your children's learning by using your home language.

Before we start, I want to explain the advantages your children have by being bilingual.

1. Makes them more tolerant because it helps them to get two very important skills-cultural competence and tolerance of how people approach new situations.
2. Helps children's learning as they can think of their ideas in both languages.
3. They can learn other languages easily and have more job opportunities in the future

Learning and Languages

- Children need to develop strong foundations in the language that is used most at home.
- Home language skills can be transferred to new languages and strengthen children's understanding of language use.
- Children who have had the benefit of an engaging language and literacy environment in their early years in their home language are more likely to transfer these skills to their new language.
- Children also progress best if the home language continues to be maintained and developed while English is introduced.



Frequently Asked Questions

Should parents stop speaking their own language and speak only English?

No, children need to be surrounded by people at home who feel confident in their use of language. This helps to build strong relationships with family and helps them to feel comfortable at home.

Will a child be confused by learning two or more languages?

No, a child's brain can cope with learning two or more languages without impeding learning. There are many countries where multiculturalism is the norm: Canada, Belgium, Switzerland, and Finland, to name a few.

For further information about this leaflet or any queries about EAL please contact
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