

Manchester Local Care Organisation

Children's Speech and Language Therapy Service

Advice for Parents and Carers:

One Child, Two Languages: Double the Fun!

Is it a problem for children to learn two languages at the same time?

- Children can often learn two or three languages easily. It takes time to learn a new language well.
- At first, children might mix languages. This is normal.
- Keep using your home language. Read books and talk together in that language. This helps them learn all languages better.
- Sometimes, children have trouble talking or understanding. This can happen even if they are learning two languages.
- If a child has a lot of trouble with their home language, talk to someone like your child's nursery or contact the speech and language therapy team.

Why is it important to speak to your child in your own language?

- A child's home language is very important. It can help them learn other languages more easily, such as English.
- It is best to use your own language with your child. You know it best, and it is natural for you. Using your language helps your child connect with family and culture.
- Knowing more than one language is very helpful for school and life!

Key points:

- The best language a parent or carer can use to speak to their child is their own language.
- Most children can learn two or three languages at the same time.
- It is important for your child to learn your home language.