

## 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.