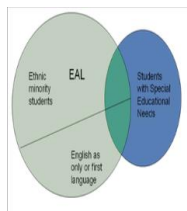




Supporting children and families with English as an Additional Language

Statistics released indicate that around 15% of children starting primary school in England have a mother tongue other than English. This figure is constantly raising and is most likely considerably more.

More than 200 languages are spoken in the homes of children attending schools in England.



Currently 6% of children at Little Stars use English as an additional language.

English as an additional language is NOT the same as Special Educational Needs (SEN). We will support your child using what we call 'social communication groups' and 'targeted interventions' but this is not the same as SEN support. If they have speech and language problems then it will show up in both languages. However, these problems are not caused by learning two languages.

We actively try to use your home language in the setting as much as we can as this can help children to feel valued and build their self esteem. **Please help us by letting us know some of the words that are important to your child.** Being confident in their home language will actually help them to learn English.

**Be Bilingual
Be Proud**

- Bilingualism can lead to increased job opportunities
- Bilinguals may perform better academically
- Being bilingual is not a problem, it is an advantage
- Bilinguals can learn more languages later more easily
- Bilingualism encourages acceptance of others
- Bilinguals have increased thinking and creativity skills
- Bilinguals have increased self esteem and self identity

Two Types of Bilingualism:

There are two ways of gaining new language skills.

Simultaneous Where two languages are learned at the same time (usually if learning two languages under the age of 3)

Sequential One language is learned first and then another (when a second language is learned after the age of 3)

Some children lose skills in their home language when learning a second language, but some do not. Each child is unique and everyone will learn in a different way.

Expect to see 'code switching', which is the practice of moving backwards and forwards between two languages.

In **Simultaneous bilingualism** you will typically see the following;

Stage 1- Child mixes languages. Children will use words from both languages to make sentences.

Stage 2- Child separates languages. For example child will speak home language at home and English at nursery.

Stage 3- Child uses mainly one language. By age 7 years the child will be able to use both language systems without difficulty.

In **Sequential bilingualism** you will typically see the following;

Stage 1- Home language is used.

Stage 2- Non verbal period. This period may last for several months (sometimes up to a year). This 'silent period' may be used by the child to build up their knowledge of the new language before they try to use it. They do not stop communicating; non verbal communication will be used e.g. pointing, touching to get attention, protesting.

Stage 3- Telegraphic Speech. Child begins to become more involved in social interactions with other children using whole, memorised phrases and sentences.

Stage 4- Productive language use. Child now communicates with others using the second language, though use of this language will not always be correct.

Stage 5- Competent language use. Child will look for patterns in sentences, just as they would do when learning the first language. They then work out the rules.

What can I do to help my child develop their language skills?

- It is important to model language to children.
- Talk about what you are doing and can see. Label items and actions; 'Let's put on your left shoe, let's put on your right shoe'.
- Continue to use their first language.
- Expect children to respond with repeated phrases in stories and songs and when counting.
- Allow children to formulate their responses to you. When you ask a question, count to 10 to give them time to answer you.
- Make sure you let us know important words. Also let us know if your child isn't developing their skills in their home language.

Further support

Leicester Learning Services
<http://removingbarriers.lls.leicester.gov.uk>
Tel: 0116 454 1910

Leicestershire County Council
<https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/early-learning-and-childcare/childcare-practice/outcomes-for-children/early-learning-and-send>
Tel: 0116 305 0002



Info taken from
http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/assets/0003/2815/Supporting_children_and_families_with_EAL_Powerpoint.pdf by Stefanie Reardon and
<http://www.afasic.org.uk>.