



Advice for Education Staff regarding Children who are acquiring their additional language within normal limits.

- 1) Supporting the development of the home language will enhance the learning of English. Therefore:
 - It is okay for children to speak in their home language when they are at school
 - It is okay for children to mix English and their home language in one sentence
- 2) Parents should be advised to speak the language/s they feel most comfortable in. It is the quality of parent – child communication that is important
- 3) Familiarise yourself with the languages and cultures of the children in your class - e.g. learn some common words/vocabulary in the other language.
- 4) Children learning an additional language commonly go through a **silent period**, where they may say nothing for several months in the new environment. This is a natural process. This should not be confused with a selectively mute child.
- 5) Give the child time to :
 - listen and respond
 - become familiar with the language
 - Adapt to school routine
- 6) It is important to value the child's home language and culture by using culturally appropriate resources within the school setting. Bilingualism can be a positive force in children's development, when their home language is promoted by the school.
- 7) Immerse the child in a language rich environment from the start – minimise time out in special EAL classes.
- 8) Advise parents to reduce TV time and increase talk time.
- 9) Time spent amongst one's peers is the best language learning opportunity: It is easier for the child to learn from their peers, who act as natural role models, than from adults.
- 10) Activities that are good for EAL students will benefit all students
- 11) Concepts developed in the child's home language can easily be transferred to English.

- 12) There is considerable evidence that learning to speak and use more than one language can benefit children's overall academic and intellectual progress.