



Advice for parents on  
helping their child  
learn English

*Jesus, be the centre of our lives.*

Help your child learn English and have fun  
in school!



## Learning Together

*Your interest and Involvement in your child's learning are the best ways you can help!*

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Language is best learned from a native speaker, encourage children to play with others who live nearby, or go to an after school club. Children can learn a lot by copying others.

Greet your child in English, encourage them to answer in short phrases.

Praise them highly whenever they use English either in response to you or voluntarily.

Watch TV with them and repeat rhymes and songs which will give them the confidence to join in all the activities.

Encourage them to find out about topics by researching the internet, using a library or talking to someone else.

Try to make learning fun as you and your child adapt to life in a new country.



## What is involved in learning a new language?

*Learning a new language is more complicated and takes longer than many people think. It is much more than learning correct grammar and vocabulary. At the beginning your child may:*

- Listen only and speak little, if at all.
- Often go through a 'silent phase', when learning a new language they may understand far more than they say.
- Use simple English when speaking with friends.
- Read and write words.
- Copy simple sentence patterns and read them.
- Write their own simple sentences and read them.

## Should I continue to use our first language with my child?

Yes, there is a lot of research to suggest that the more highly developed a student's first language is, the more successful they will be in acquiring a second language. Continuing to use your first language as far as possible will be central to your child's communication, social and emotional development. Language links to your family, community and friends, this is vital for a young child's sense of self.



## What can you do at home?

- Create a quiet place and a regular time to do homework.
- Support your child with their homework.
- Talk to your child about what is happening in school.
- Encourage your child to show you all school work.
- Read regularly with your child.
- Ensure that your child gets plenty of rest, learning in a new language takes lots of energy.
- Help your child to find opportunities to use English outside of school.
- Be patient. Understand that learning a language is a complex, long-term process.

Talk in English about things you do and count them, e.g.

- Wash your teeth, face etc.
- Put on your pants, vest etc.
- Set the table with a glass, a knife, a plate etc.
- Look at the rain, sun, clouds.
- Tidy away cars or books or clothes.
- Look for birds on the trees.
- Find cars on the street.
- Sort shopping by size, shape or colour.
- Put it away in the fridge or cupboard or on the shelf.