

Talking Tips

Families **talk** now

First Language First

The best way to help your child learn to talk is by speaking to them in your own language; your 'home language'. If children understand and use a good range of words in their home language, then they will find it easier to learn English.

For example, if your child knows how to use words to name or label colours, shapes, numbers, objects and actions in your home language they will soon learn the English versions of these words.

If your child does not know these words in your home language it may be harder for them to learn the words in English.

Benefits of Being Bilingual...

Research shows that children who are bilingual can

- Find it easier to problem solve
- Have greater creativity
- Become high achievers at secondary school
- Have knowledge of more words and phrases
- Communicate with their family and take part in important cultural and religious events, which gives them a strong link to their identity.

Children learning different languages;

Some families talk to their children in a number of languages, depending on the situation. Sometimes these languages have different sentence structures – the words are in different orders and the grammar is different.

To help your child learn the structure of different languages, experts advise that you try to stick to one language at a time, and try not to swop languages in the middle of a sentence.

If a child does know more than one language they may use a mixture of languages when they speak, using the words they know.

Children going to new places;

Children who are learning more than one language are not necessarily going to be slower at learning to talk. However, some children have a period when they don't talk in a new place (such as nursery), especially if languages they don't know are spoken there.

You can help your child by providing as much information as you can about the languages you use at home and your cultural background. This will help the early years setting understand and help your child.

If your child starts to learn English at nursery or school, they may start to talk to you in English at home. Don't worry, just keep talking with them in your own language, accepting what they say in English.

Over 50% of the world's population are multi-lingual. Over 100 languages are spoken in Coventry.

Children learning English as an additional language are as able as any other children.

