

Moray EAL Service Aims

1.To promote equality of opportunity and to fulfil the potential of children and young people by valuing their bilingualism.

2.To promote the welfare of bilingual children and young people within the school and the community so that they become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.
(a curriculum for excellence)

3.To work in partnership with schools, parents/carers and other agencies to promote positive relationships.

4. To support practitioners in meeting the needs of bilingual pupils.

English as an Additional Language Service (EAL)

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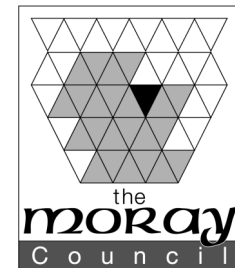
Moray EAL Service

Working with bilingual families



Guidance for Parents/Carers

0-3 years



Adapted from Dundee City Council Education Department leaflet

Raising Your Child Bilingually

"Research has shown that bilingualism is beneficial for children's development and their future. Children exposed to different languages become more aware of different cultures, other people and other points of view. But they also tend to be better than monolinguals at 'multitasking' and focusing attention, they often are more precocious readers, and generally find it easier to learn other languages. Bilingualism gives children much more than two languages!"

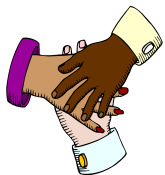
www.bilingualism-matters.org.uk

Three main patterns of language use have been identified:

One Person - One Language (e.g. mother speaks only Polish, father only English)

One Place - One Language (e.g. Latvian spoken at home, English outside the home)

One Time of Day - One Language (e.g. English spoken during the day, Urdu in the evening)



Questions parents sometimes ask

Q Will my child fall behind in both languages?

A No, children acquiring two languages proceed through the stages of language development and attain milestones at similar times as monolingual children.

Q Will our child learn English faster if we try to speak it at home?

A No, research shows that developing the **home language** gives a good foundation for other languages to develop.

Q How can we help our child at home?

A **Use your own language(s)**. Borrow dual language books from the library and read them together. Spend time talking about books in the home language.



Q Will my child be confused if I change languages inside a sentence or across sentences?

A Try to avoid this. If you jumble the two languages your child may think this is one language system. Keep the languages separate.

Q What should I do if my child uses his/her other language with me?

A Just say "please say that in our language" your child will soon learn consistent language boundaries.

Q Can we get help in communicating with other services?

A Yes, an interpreter can be arranged for you.

