

Multilingual Families Lab Infographics:

**Growing up Bilingual: Tips and Resources for Parents Raising Emerging Bilingual
and Multilingual Children**

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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
FACULTY OF REHABILITATION MEDICINE
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

Multilingual Families
LAB
familles multilingues

Growing up Bilingual: Tips and Resources for Parents Raising Emerging Bilingual and Multilingual Children

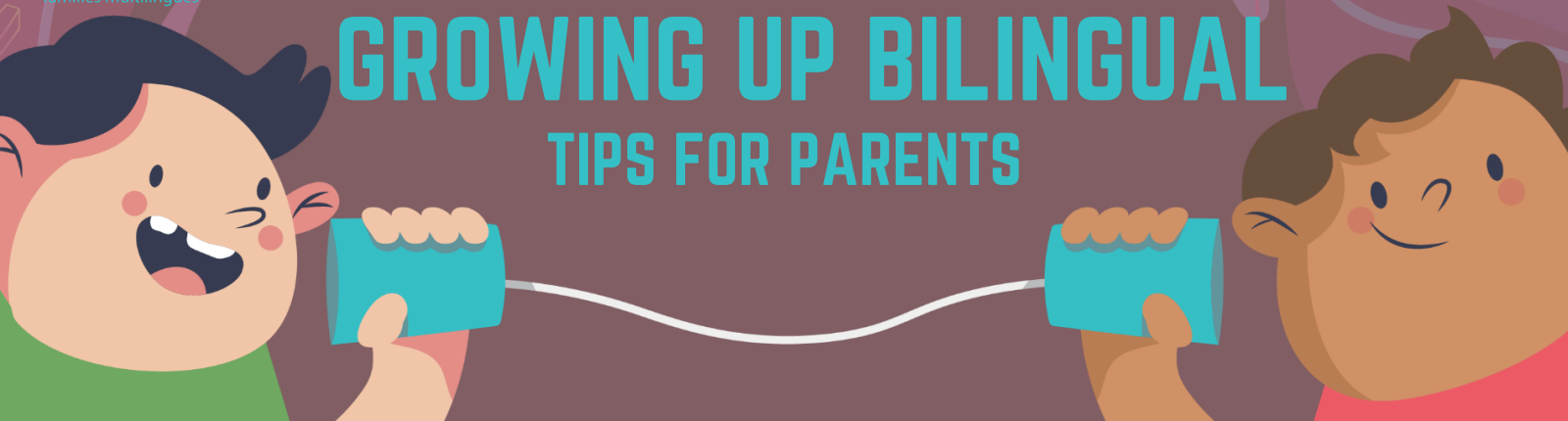


Andrea A.N. MacLeod
Catrine Demers

In Fall of 2021, Dr. Andrea A.N. MacLeod and Dr. Catrine Demers created infographics on (1) tips and (2) resources for parents speaking a marginalized language at home and raising emerging bilingual and multilingual children. The (1) tips include information and strategies for parents to use with their children to keep children's home language alive and growing: (a) being bilingual is good; (b) learning takes place at home, school, & community; (c) each family has different expectations and hopes; and (d) tips to keep language growing. The two resources include online resources and in the community of Edmonton to keep children's home language alive and growing: (a) the Multilingual Families Lab Website; (b) the Talkbox for Preschoolers website; (c) the Online Multilingual Storybooks; and (d) the Edmonton Public Library.

GROWING UP BILINGUAL

TIPS FOR PARENTS



BEING BILINGUAL IS GOOD



- Learning more than one language does not cause delays or difficulties with language learning.
- Being bilingual doesn't cause confusion in identity.
- Bilingualism is not an exception or unusual – around the world most people are bilingual – or more!

LEARNING TAKES PLACE AT HOME, SCHOOL, & COMMUNITY

- Learning at home leads to feelings of attachment to the language.
- Learning in the community leads to a sense of belonging to the language.
- Learning in school leads to academic knowledge of the language.



EACH FAMILY HAS DIFFERENT EXPECTATIONS AND HOPES

Think about your hopes and expectations:

- Where can you use your home language?
- What are resources in your family and your community?

Make a plan:

- How much time can you use your home language?
- What resources can help you? Games? Books? Songs and poems?

Stay positive, be encouraging and be patient!



TIPS TO KEEP LANGUAGE GROWING

Use simple and functional words:

- Choose 5 new words per week
- Use picture books, name food as you are eating or cooking, talk about what you see around you

Provide a model and encourage your child to repeat it:

- Child: I see a bear!
- You: Ah! [In your language: I see a bear, say bear]

Introduce some simple sentences:

- [In your language: I see... , I want... , I love you, I'm hungry]



GROWING UP MULTILINGUAL RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

MULTILINGUAL FAMILIES LAB



- Tools and activities to support the language development of your children in all languages.
- Activities are all designed to be done at home.

Multilingual Families Lab: bilingualacquisition.ca

Activities: bilingualacquisition.ca/covid-19-multilingual-families-talking-and-playing/

TALKBOX

- Resources for parents to create a language-rich environment for children.
- Includes expectations for speech and language development, when & where to get help in Alberta, tips for parents, and monthly activities.

TalkBox for Preschoolers:

open.alberta.ca/publications/talk-box-a-parent-s-guide-to-creating-language-rich-environments-preschool



ONLINE MULTILINGUAL STORYBOOKS

- Online books in multiple languages.
- Written and audio recordings for each language included.
- Can be downloaded and printed.



Global Storybooks:

globalstorybooks.net

Storybooks Canada:

storybookscanada.ca

Indigenous Storybooks:

indigenoustorybooks.ca

EDMONTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

- Borrow books and resources in many different languages.
- Use the advanced search tool in the upper right corner to select a language.
- Use the Services tab to search for resources and information by your child's age or by need (i.e., Family Language Kits).

Edmonton Public Library: www.epl.ca

Sign up: www2.epl.ca/register/

