

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]

