



## Parent Information Sheet

### Supporting Children With English As Addition Language

1. **Liaise** - Liaise with your child's Class Teacher.
2. **Home Language** – Parents should keep using the language they speak best with the child. This will most likely be their home language. This will help the child hear good models of language structure and vocabulary which will help children learn their home language and also learn English better later on. It also means they can learn to understand and talk to family and friends who live in their home country. Research shows no harm will come to a child from learning 2 or more languages, even if they have a language impairment or difficulty talking.
3. **Time** - Be patient. Learning 2 or more languages usually takes longer than learning one language. It really is worth it in the end. With the right support, the child will be using both languages to their full potential when older. It may take your child a little longer to start talking and using language but that's okay.
4. **Stories** - Help your child get lots of quality exposure to both/all languages. Sharing story books is a great way to learn new words.
5. **Advice** – If your child seems to be having a lot of difficulty developing both their home language and English, ask to speak to a speech & language therapist. It will be important to assess language skills in both/all languages to see if they need extra support.
6. **Relax** - If you talk to your child in your home language and they answer only in English, don't worry! It's very common for children who are learning English as an additional language to talk only in the language they hear most people talking in outside the home – usually English. They're still showing you they understand and are learning their home language and will start speaking it when they're ready.
7. **Praise** - Don't forget to praise your child for their efforts at speaking in both languages.