

## **Advice for parents who have children with Speech and Language difficulties for whom English is an additional language.**

Your child has difficulties in understanding and / or using language to communicate. This will happen in your own family language and also in English.

Things you can do to help your child:

1. Keep speaking your own language. Do not change your natural pattern of language use at home. Do not start speaking a language that you are not competent with even though it's the child's new language (e.g. English)
2. Keep words and gestures consistent. If both parents speak different languages to the child, it is natural to switch between the two languages, but keep the vocabulary consistent.
3. Keep language simple and context bound: use short phrases when talking, use lots of repetition and keep modeling language to your child.
4. Use gesture, facial expression, and body language to help show your child what you mean.
5. Encourage attempts from your child to communicate in any way or language – show them you are interested!
6. At nursery or school, ask if your child can get any support in his / her home language. This will help your child's English language skills to develop as well.
7. Share a simple list of 10-20 commonly used words in your home language with nursery/ school, and friends
8. Use nursery rhymes and stories from any culture and language – these can be shared with your nursery / school- ask parents if they are willing to share this with nursery.
9. Play word association games, e.g. think of 5 types of fruit, transport or furniture – this will help your child increase his/her vocabulary. As your child gets older you can do this in more than one language.
10. Strategies from Speech and Language Therapy programmes can be delivered in any language. Talk to your Speech and Language Therapist for more advice.