



HELP YOUR CHILD LEARN MORE THAN ONE LANGUAGE

DID YOU KNOW?

Children with strong language skills in their first language will learn a second language more easily. They learn a language best from people who speak that language well and **often.**

Learning two languages can happen at any age and will not cause a speech or language delay.

It is normal for children learning a second language:

- To switch back and forth between languages when they speak.
- To go through a "silent period" for 3 to 6 months. They should continue to use their first language.
- To make grammatical mistakes in the new language until they figure out all the rules.

If you are concerned about your child's ability to learn his first language, get help!

TALK TO YOUR CHILD IN YOUR FIRST LANGUAGE

- Talk in your first language use a variety of words to describe objects and actions when you're feeding your child, going for a walk, changing diapers or playing.
- Tell stories, read and sing in your first language. If the books you use are in English, name the pictures and tell the story in your first language. Give your child time to talk to you about the book.

For more information visit www.onekidsplace.ca

Worksheet adapted from First Words Preschool Speech and Language Program of Ottawa and www.parentlinkalberta.ca