

Supporting children learning English as an additional language

Leaflet for Parents/carers



Kas savo kalbaa niekina – kitos neismoks

“Anyone who devalues their own language will not learn anyone else’s”
(Lithuanian proverb)

**The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states that children have the right to have their voices heard and a right to use their own language.
(1989, Article 30)**

General Information on being Bilingual:

- Studies show that children can learn more than one language at the same time. Very young children can mix the languages but they soon learn to keep them separate.
- In many parts of the world children grow up learning more than one language at the same time. For example, Japanese children learn Japanese as well as English. They can learn two different types of writing systems.
- Learning more than one language broadens the mind and the understanding of concepts and ideas as well as the understanding of different cultures.
- Continuing to learn the “mother tongue” will enable those children to truly communicate with their extended families that might not speak English and build a relationship which would not be possible otherwise.

Our commitment to you is to...

- Make you feel welcome: Get to know your child and yourselves; what language you speak, where you come from.
- Inform you of the importance of continuing to speak to your child in their main language.
- Learn some words in your child's language: For instance, "Hello", "Thank you", "Good bye" and display these in the room so others can learn as well. Greet children and parents in their language.
- Involve you in the setting; stories, celebration of festivities, providing props and much more.
- Support your child's development with your help by making observations, taking photographs, plan the necessary steps. At every step of your child's development your involvement is crucial.

Information about the EAL Tool

- The EAL (English as an Additional Language) tool is a document with information about your child's language and communication skills. This greatly assists the key person and your child's future Reception Teacher.
- This information will be gathered in different ways for example, by talking to you, by observing your child's interaction with yourself in your home language, or by communicating with different family members who are able to translate.
- This document will help to find out the stage of development of your child's communication and language skills in their home language and in English.
- Your child's key person will further discuss and explain the EAL tool to you.

Bellinge Community pre-school in conjunction with LSE Early Years Improvement team