



## Learning Two Languages

It is important for you to decide what language you want your child to learn.

- ★ You might want your child to only learn the language of your family.
- ★ You might want your child to only learn English.
- ★ You might want your child to learn the language of your family AND English. There are three good ways to do this...

1. DIFFERENT PERSON, DIFFERENT LANGUAGE – You can have different people in your family speaking a different language to your child. EXAMPLE: Mom speaks only English with the child and Dad speaks only French with the child.
2. DIFFERENT PLACE, DIFFERENT LANGUAGE - Your child can learn one language at home and another language somewhere else. EXAMPLE: You teach Vietnamese at home and your child learns English at daycare.
3. DIFFERENT TIME, DIFFERENT LANGUAGE – Your child can learn one language at a certain time of day and another language at a different time. EXAMPLE: Everyone in the house speaks German during the day and English at supper and in the evening.

Learning two languages at the same time should **not** result in language delay. Children who are learning two languages should still achieve the following milestones **at the same ages** as children who are only learning one language:

- ❖ 8 words by 15 months
- ❖ 24 words between 18 – 20 months
- ❖ 40 words between 21 – 24 months
- ❖ 2 word combinations by 24 months
- ❖ 100 words between 24 – 30 months

There are many benefits to being bilingual. Keep in mind that it is CRUCIAL for children to have solid skills in at least one language. If your child has delays in language development, talking with a Speech Language Pathologist might help with making a decision about learning two languages.