

# Speak your First Language

## Children need to learn their first language well. This will help them:

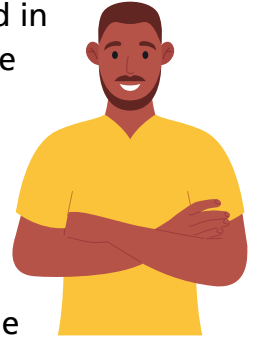
- stay connected with family.
- take part in their cultural community.
- build a solid foundation in another language.

It is important for children to have solid skills in at least one language. This makes it easier for children to learn another language.



## Parents can help:

- speak to your child in a language you are comfortable and fluent in - your “heart” language.
- try to speak each language without mixing them in one sentence.
- talk about pictures you see in books and make connections to your child’s own experiences.
- talk during daily activities (mealtimes, bath time) with your children.
- talk more and use screens less.



## Research shows children learning more than one language have:

- better awareness of how words sound and rhyme.
- a more creative use of language in writing and talking.
- increased attention and focus.

Research shows learning more than one language in early childhood can help children in their later schoolwork.



Speaking your first language to your child will not stop your child from learning English.