

#### Tips for you as a family

- Speak to your children mainly in the language which you feel most comfortable with and which you speak well.
- > Read to your children.
- Make sure your children have opportunities to build trustful relationships with people who speak the new language.
- > Visit playgrounds or institutions in which children and adults speak the new language.
- Watch out for offers such as playgroups, sports, music, drama groups and libraries to enable your children to live and experience the new language in different contexts.
- > Look for and maintain social contacts with people who speak the new language.
- > Show appreciation for the word(s) your children learn in the new language and try to learn them yourself.
- > Be a model for your children and give speaking the new language a try.
- If possible, attend language courses yourself so that you will be able to accompany your children on their journey of learning a new language.

#### CHILDREN AND THEIR LANGUAGE(S)

Language learning in the family

2. How do children successfully learn a new language?

Further leaflets from this series and its translations into various languages are available at:



Useful Links:



### Kindergarten

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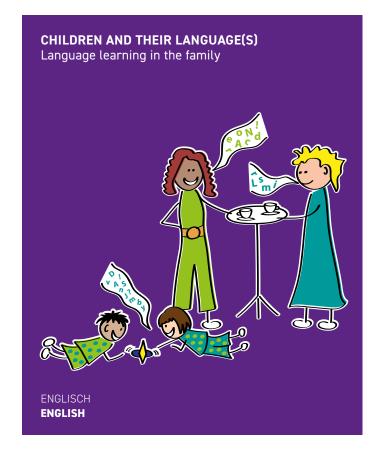
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# How do children successfully learn a new language?

The children's families and environment are crucial.

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## Speaking to your children in your own language

When speaking to their children, parents instinctively use the language which they feel most comfortable with and which they speak well.

#### Why?

Speaking the language you feel most comfortable with, will have a positive effect on your parent-child-relationship.

Family languages are important for your children's identity.

The children's first languages are an important basis for learning further languages. Having a sound foundation in their first language(s) gives children the best chance to learn further languages.

## Your children will easily learn a new language

- > if you as a family cherish this new language.
- > if you as a family are open to this new language.
- if your children are interested in speaking this new language, e.g. because they want to communicate with their friends.
- if your children come across this new language in a trusting atmosphere also outside the kindergarten.
- if as many people as possible speak this new language with your children on a regular basis.
- if the people your children are in touch with cherish all their (verbal and non-verbal) communication abilities without exerting any pressure.



## Your children's education – a decision that requires some thought

- > Your children's education will span over a long period of time and needs to be monitored by you as a family.
- Children usually benefit from attending kindergarten and schools in the same language of instruction. Please bear this in mind when you choose the kindergarten for your children.
- It is important that the children's parents agree on which educational institution to choose for their children.
- Make sure that you understand the language of your children's educational institution. Have someone who can support you and translate for you if need be.