

KEEPING YOUR HOME LANGUAGE

NEWCOMER
PARENT
RESOURCE
SERIES

Research shows that keeping your home language will not only benefit your child socially and emotionally, but can also improve their cognitive skills, boost overall brain function, and help them to learn a new language.

There are many reasons to keep using your home language with your child.

- Your family will talk more easily with each other and will be able to tell complex stories and share jokes and songs.
- You and your child will feel closer.
- Your child will hear and learn to use language that is rich and expressive.
- Your child is more likely to share emotions with you.
- You and your child can understand each other better.
- Your child is more likely to listen to you.
- Your child can feel they belong and become proud of their language and culture.
- Your child can talk with other family members and family friends.
- Your child is more likely to speak both languages in more complex ways. This can lead to more success in school.

When newcomer children first start attending a child care program or going to school, they may not understand or speak any English, but that's okay! Within a few months, most children learn some English. And as your child gets older, they will likely start speaking English more and more often.



Suggestions for Keeping Your Home Language:

- Always use your home language with your child and encourage all family members to use it.
- If your child speaks English, ask them to tell you what they've just said in your home language. (At first you can say it in your home language, so they can learn how.)
- Use games, songs and stories to make language appealing.
- Have real conversations, rather than just telling your child what to do.
- If your child is resisting speaking their home language, you can designate the home or a specific time (e.g., dinner) to only speak your home language.

Visit cmascanada.ca/cnc/parents for more multilingual parent information



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