

Multilingualism, a Treasure: Recommendations for Professionals and Parents



- Parents should speak to their children in the language in which they feel safe and can also express feelings. Use your “heart language.”
- Parents should only speak to their children in German if they speak it well.
- Foster contact with the German language as early as possible. This is done by visiting a day care centre (by the time the child is three years old if not younger) but also by means of contact with other children and adults who speak German.
- Be a role model when it comes to learning a language. When parents show that they are open to learn something new, they serve as a good example to their child and provide a reason to do the same.
- Praise children for their progress and talk to them about language learning.

Spend time with your child. Because commitment is the best prerequisite for education. If you like speaking to your daughter or son, you strengthen their linguistic skills in addition to their personality development.



Multilingualism, a Treasure: Every Day Tips



- Speak to your child frequently from the beginning. Talk about anything you do, what you experience together what you see.
- Look at your child when speaking to him or her and express interest when listening.
- Make sure to also use complete and complex sentences in conversation.
- Be careful not to correct your child; instead, pick up on what they are referring to and repeat it correctly (Child: "There, lorry!" Parent: "Yes, there's a lorry!" or "You're right, I see a lorry!")
- Limit the amount of time you watch TV. If you do watch, do so together and talk about it afterward since television itself is not a language teacher.
- Offer as many learning incentives as possible. Picture books, role playing, puppet shows ...
- Reading out loud, singing, reading bedtime stories, telling stories and playing games are fun for children. When repeated, they give children a sense of security.
- Allow and encourage contact with other children. This is how children learn from each other and also practice social behaviour.



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