

EAL- How to help at home

Learning English Children who are bilingual need to continue to use and develop their home language.

Parents sometimes feel that they should encourage their children to speak only in English, and minimise the use of their first or home language, so that their English develops as fast as possible. This is a mistaken belief, as it is vital for educational as well as family and cultural reasons, that children and young people maintain and develop their first or home language whilst their English is developing.

We believe that all languages need to be valued and celebrated!

Parents should therefore be encouraged to promote the use of first/or home languages, for example in:

- Everyday family conversations
- Discussing homework, such as stories in reading books
- Phoning/corresponding with relatives.
- Reading dual language books with younger children at home
- Providing books, newspapers etc in the first/home language for older children.

Websites:

www.bfinclusion.org.uk This is the EAL website for Bracknell Forest. It features advice from the EAL Handbook as well as links to the best websites for resources, translations etc.

www.newburypark.redbridge.sch.uk/langofmonth This award winning primary school website features 28 languages with more to come. Suitable for an interactive whiteboard as well as individual use. It covers useful words and phrases, resource packs and sound files for teachers who want to focus on a language of the month with their classrooms. • www.enchantedlearning.com: offers downloadable worksheets in seven languages, e.g. Portuguese, Spanish. Particularly good for material suited to the EAL beginner.

www.learninggrid.com downloadable material for use with Clicker5, ClozePro and Wordbar

Other translation websites:

www.itools.com/lang an excellent translation site providing on line dictionaries. On line text and web page translation available in Spanish, French, German, Portuguese, Italian and Norwegian.

Translation service available for a much broader range of languages

www.google.com/language_tools allows you to locate printed material in a broad range of languages with a subject search facility.

www.itool webpage translator

www.yourdictionary.com background information on languages

www.ilovelanguages.com similar to the above

www.onlinenewspapers.com pupils can read the local newspaper from home in their first language

English games and stories

www.learnenglish.org.uk/kids Games on a variety of basic vocabulary. Click on 'topics' and choose 'games'. Try 'paint it' as well as others.