**Maintaining your home language - Tips from parents to parents**

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|  | **Tips** |
| **1** | For all ages:  Watch TV shows and films in your home language.  Afterwards have a conversation about the plot, characters and so on. |
| **2** | Identify a time each day when you will speak in your home language - this could be during a car journey or at the dinner table.  Make sure to choose topics that your child is interested in so that they take an active part in the conversation! |
| **3** | Explain what it means to live in bilingual family environment.  For example explain that you feel more comfortable speaking in your home language and therefore enjoy conversations in your home language, and you would really like it if your child could speak to you in your home language.  Talk about the advantages that come from learning two (or more) languages as children, for example communicating with people in other countries and having a much easier time than other people who try to learn a second language later in life. |
| **4** | Go digital.  Have all the electronic devices in set to the home language and with older children text and email only in the home language. |
| **5** | Books and music. Singing in the home language is fun for younger children and rhymes make it easier to remember words. Reading aloud in the home language is also beneficial - and with older children will build vocabulary and grammar. |
| **6** | Provide opportunities to speak the home language with friends - for example attending a Saturday school or playgroup, but also using Skype, Facetime or WhatsApp to communicate with family back home. |

Taken from:

‘The Benefits of multilingualism in the Family’, a leaflet from the University of Reading, Centre for literacy and Multilingualism

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**Useful websites**

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| **A. Bell Foundation - information for parents**  Webpages translated into  **114** languages via  ‘Select Language’ tab | \* Information about the school system.  \* Resources and advice to support your child’s learning.  \* Ideas to develop your English. | https://ealresources.bell-foundation.org.uk/parents |
| **B. British Council -**  **Learn English, helping your child with English** | Advice about helping your child to learn English. | https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/helping-your-child |
| **C. British Council -**  **Learn English, getting started for kids** | For children aged 5-12 who want to have fun learning English.  Lots of free online games, songs, stories, videos and activities. | https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/getting-started-for-kids |
| **D. The School Run** | The School Run helps parents to understand what their children are learning at primary school. | https://www.theschoolrun.com/ |
| **E. Aspire -**  **ESOL courses (English for Speakers of other Languages)** | Information about English courses for adults across West Sussex. | https://www.aspiresussex.org.uk/topic/english-for-speakers-of-other-languages-2/ |

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