

Tips for Working with Children who Speak Languages **Other than English** at Home



FUN FACTS

- Bilingual children benefit from exposure to **both English and their home language**
- **Codeswitching** (mixing languages) is **normal** among bilingual children
- Bilingualism is a **net positive** - It can lead to educational and work opportunities!

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE CLASSROOM

- **Repeat and Reword** - Increase opportunities to understand.
- **Provide Breaks** - Learning a new language is exhausting!
- **Use Visual Cues** - Use gestures, pictures, and demonstration to increase understanding for kids.
- **Print out labels** for objects around the classroom in English and the child's home language.
- **Encourage communication in any form!** Some bilingual children experience a "silent period" when they do more listening than talking.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE HOME

- Family members should speak in the language in which they are the **most comfortable** interacting with the child
- **Read with the child however possible** - Reading benefits language development, which supports even better academic achievement



Any child may benefit from these suggestions. If you have any questions or want more information, please do not hesitate to reach out to:
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