



PEOPLE



PROMOTE



PROTECT



PROVIDE



PARTNERSHIP

Delivering good health
and prevention services

Public Health in Leicestershire

Leicestershire
County Council

Learning other languages

Early phonics (Letters and sounds) can be beneficial in supporting children's development. It can support their recognition of environmental sounds, instrumental sounds, body percussion (e.g., clapping and stamping), rhythm and rhyme, alliteration, voice sounds, and oral blending and segmenting and blending.

Remember:

Children learn best through play. Games and activities are a great way to support children who learning more than one language.

Children can learn more than one language at a time, even more than 2 languages. The earlier you start teaching children different languages, the easier it will be for them to understand and speak in different languages.

The use of stories and books, read in different languages, can contribute greatly to children's understanding of language and to their developing speech and communication. Books with pictures, illustrations, photographs, or props give children the opportunity to create their own ideas in their home language which can be translated into another language with support.

Guessing games, such as 'guess who' or 'I-spy' are important for helping children to practise the skill of formulating questions. These questions should vary in their complexity and may involve simple or harder words depending on your child's understanding. You can play these games in any language or in a mix of languages. These games can be adapted easily to suit your child's age and stage of development.

Rules are important to young children. It is vital that they fully understand the rules and boundaries in place, especially when playing games or doing activities, and have an awareness of how to respond to these. It is important that children learning more than one language are not asked to respond first in a turn-taking game or group activity so that they are able to watch, listen and learn from the responses of others.

Musical activities are particularly useful for supporting communication and language development. Simple songs and rhymes are often children's first attempts at using a different language. It is important that these are sung in all of the languages that your child is learning. You can translate your child's favourite rhymes from your home language to other languages, these might be 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star' or 'Heads, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes' These are also available to find online if you are unsure of how to translate them yourself.