

Good websites to try:

[www.literacytrust.org.uk/talktoyourbaby.org.uk](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/talktoyourbaby.org.uk)

Lots of ideas for singing and talking activities

[www.booktime.pearson.com/activities.cfm](http://www.booktime.pearson.com/activities.cfm)

Lots of fun with books, including texts in other languages

[www.mantralingua.com](http://www.mantralingua.com)

Lots of lovely books and games to buy in many languages

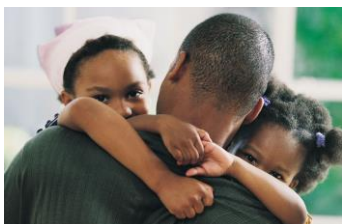
[somerse Gateway.somerset.gov.uk](http://somerse Gateway.somerset.gov.uk)

Lots of information about things you can do in Somerset with your child

[www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc)

Games and activities to share with your child

Remember there are lots of things to talk about:  
shopping....cooking....walking in the park....having  
friends to come and play....growing seeds.....sharing  
a story.....



**JUST KEEP TALKING!**

# Keep Talking

Young children learning English as an  
Additional Language (EAL)



Guidance for Parents and Early Years  
Practitioners

Produced by the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service and the Foundation Stage Advisory Team,  
Somerset County Council, in line with the EYFS document "Supporting Children Learning  
English as an Additional Language" and the EYFS Framework

**I speak another language at home. Should I speak to my child in English?**

No. Speak to your child in the language you know best. Speak to them a lot!

This gives your child the best start, because they will have a good strong foundation in this language. Scientists have found that children who learn their home language really well, learn other languages more easily too.

If you stop speaking your home language, your child will find it more difficult to develop their thinking skills, too.

**But how will my child learn English?**

Children will learn English best from a native speaker of English. They will learn English more easily if they can speak their home language really well, because they will understand about language, and using words, and communicating well. The best thing you can do to help your child's talking is to talk and play with your child, using your mother tongue.

**I am worried that my child won't be able to speak English when they start school.**

You can help your child by sending them to a nursery or playgroup. They will hear lots of English from adults and other children who speak it very well.

Even if your child can't speak any English when they start school, they will learn well, especially if they can speak their home language well.

**What about the television?**

TV can be useful to show children places and things that they don't normally see, and can teach children songs, and some English words. It is good to watch children's television together. But television cannot teach your child English, because it cannot hold a conversation. Talking with your child is the way to learn language.

**We speak 2 languages at home. My child might get confused.**

It's usually a good idea to decide which language each of you will speak with your child, then the child will associate one language with one parent, and another language with the other parent. This stops the child becoming confused.

**Will my child speak only English at school?**

Yes, usually, but sometimes your child might speak their home language if there are other children who share this. This will not stop your child learning English, and it can be really helpful, especially for your child's thinking and understanding.

**Your home language is very important. You will have your best conversations in it, and you can keep communicating with all the family. It is wonderful to be bi-lingual!**