

## English as an additional language

It is very important that bilingual children learn in their first language and in their second language. If you talk to your child at home in your first language then continue to do so. It is very important that you can communicate with your child well. Use the language that you feel most comfortable with - if you try to talk to your child in a language you don't speak very well yourself then he won't learn to communicate very well either! (Talking Point website, 2013)

It is quite normal for typically developing children learning more than one language to take a little while longer to become competent in both languages but this should not be a long-term problem. Bilingualism in a child is an advantage and does not cause communication disorders (Communicating Quality 3).

If your child has difficulties in learning both their first language and English, then it may be that they have more of a speech, language or communication need. Because English is an additional language, it is sometimes hard to recognise these difficulties. If you are concerned, that there are language difficulties in both languages then you should consider referral to the speech and language therapy service.