



How parents of EAL learners can help in their child's learning

Parents can support their child by providing a language-rich environment at home in whatever language they speak best. Parents should continue to speak to their child in the first/home language. Having a strong and developing first/home language will help your child's English to develop.

★ **If you don't speak fluent English, you can still offer vital support to help your child to access the curriculum.**

Try to:

- ★ Continue to develop the home language by reading to your child, sharing books and telling stories. It is particularly helpful to read dual language books with your child, which are then read in English at school to help them to understand the content.
- ★ In your home language, discuss current and future class topics, class novels and new vocabulary which your child may not understand to develop understanding. This will support your child's learning, and help to develop their home language, which will also support their learning of English. You can ask the class teacher what the class themes are.
- ★ Explain meanings of key vocabulary in your child's homework, using a dual language dictionary/translation app or a list of key words with pictures. Your child can show you the English word or picture and you can talk about the word in your home language with them. Translated subject-specific vocabulary is extremely helpful in making the curriculum more accessible to your child.
- ★ Let your child watch good quality TV programmes in both English and in their home language/s.
- ★ Invite English speaking children home to play.
- ★ Translate key instructions, words and phrases in your child's homework.
- ★ If you can, translate class work that your child has written in the home language for them to take back to school. This enables pupils to produce valid written work and actively helps in the learning of English.
- ★ Encourage your child to read and write in your first/home language as they will develop skills that are transferable to reading and writing in English.



Parents are a valuable source of help to their children's education, and your support and involvement is very valued.