



Supporting children with more than one language

Inclusion Team

14th June

Lucy Strickland (SENCO) and Ewa Piwowska (EAL Co-ordinator)



Love



Unity



Courage



Inspiration

Bishop Aldhelm's CE Primary School



What language should parents use at home?

Is it an advantage for a child to grow up multilingual?

What's a successful outcome for multilingual children?

What will best support children to learn English?

How might these children use language?

**Multilingual
or bilingual
learners**



Love



Unity



Courage



Inspiration

Bishop Aldhelm's CE Primary School



What is bilingualism or multilingualism?

“Bilingualism is the ability to understand and/or use two or more languages. The term therefore encompasses “multilingualism” which is the knowledge and/or use of several languages. The languages in question may be spoken languages, sign languages or a combination”

Source: “Working with Bilingual Children” Royal College of Speech and language therapists (RCSLT)



Love



Unity



Courage



Inspiration

Bishop Aldhelm's CE Primary School



A Quiz??

- ❖ What percentage of the world's population are bilingual?
- ❖ How many languages are there in the world?



Love



Unity



Courage



Inspiration

Bishop Aldhelm's CE Primary School



❖ Over 50% of the world's population are considered to be bilingual

Source: "Working with Bilingual Children" Royal College of Speech and language therapists (RCSLT)



Love



Unity



Courage



Inspiration

Bishop Aldhelm's CE Primary School



❖ According to Ethnologue.com, there are about 7,151 languages in the world.



Love



Unity



Courage

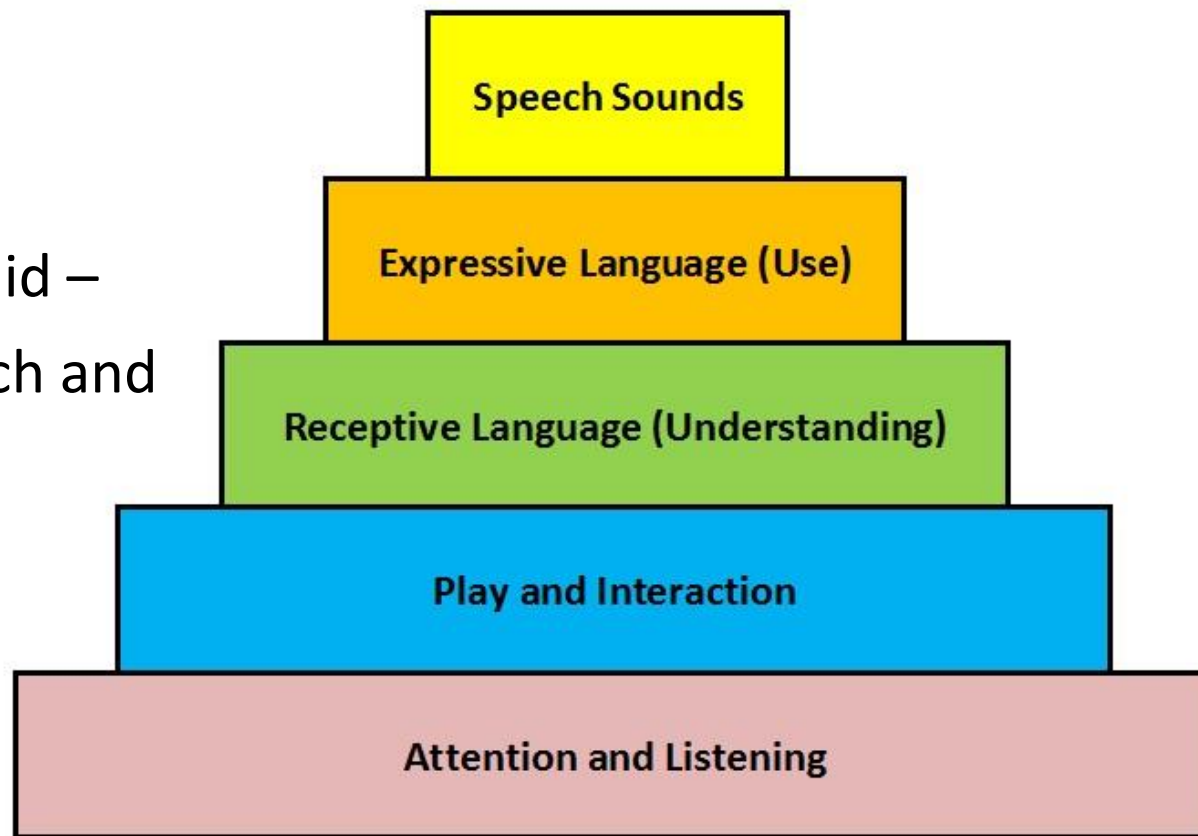


Inspiration

Bishop Aldhelm's CE Primary School



Speech and Language Pyramid –
This is how we acquire speech and language



Love



Unity



Courage



Inspiration

Bishop Aldhelm's CE Primary School



Normal language acquisition for the bilingual child

❖ **Stage 1: home language**

Initially, the child may continue to use their home language (usually their mother tongue) in different settings, such as school, even if the adults there can't speak it as well.

❖ **Stage 2: silence**

The child then enters a silent phase, becoming non-verbal in the education setting. This is normal and can last for several months.

❖ **Stage 3: new language**

The child starts to use telegraphic speech and formulaic phrases in the new language.



Love



Unity



Courage



Inspiration

Bishop Aldhelm's CE Primary School



❖ **Stage 4: competence**

The child becomes increasingly competent and produces longer, more complex and novel sentences and phrases.

❖ **Stage 5: confidence**

As the child's confidence increases, they may cease using their mother tongue at home, starting to use the new language even if they're spoken to in their mother tongue by people they know can't speak the new language.

Source: "Working with Bilingual Children" an online course, Royal College of Speech and language therapists (RCSLT)



Love



Unity



Courage



Inspiration

Bishop Aldhelm's CE Primary School



What language should parents use at home?

Parents' first language (or if not first, their most fluent) is the language of secure bonding – it's important parents use it for building secure attachment, to support children's cognitive development and to develop their child's speech language and communication. This doesn't mean parents shouldn't use other languages at home *as well*!



Love



Unity



Courage



Inspiration

Bishop Aldhelm's CE Primary School



Is it an advantage for a child to grow up multilingual?

It's a huge advantage to grow up using more than one language. Multilingual children achieve better results at school (for example, on average, they do better at GCSE) and get better health outcomes (for example, there's evidence multilingualism delays the onset of dementia.) Multilingual children develop better problem-solving and multi-tasking skills, as well as a range of other advantages.



Love



Unity



Courage



Inspiration

Bishop Aldhelm's CE Primary School



What's a successful outcome for multilingual children?

Over time, we should support multilingual children to attain a good level of fluency in all their languages, including English so they can benefit from the many advantages of multilingualism. Of course parents have a key role in helping their child to develop language skills in the home, and first language storytelling, rhymes, play etc.



Love



Unity



Courage



Inspiration

Bishop Aldhelm's CE Primary School



What will best support children to learn English?

Children learn English faster if they are building on firm foundations in their first language. If you can already do something in one language, it's much easier to learn to do it in another. If you know about something in your first language, this will help you make sense of it in English. On average, children with well-developed first language reach fluency in English 2 to 3 years sooner than children without.



Love



Unity



Courage



Inspiration

Bishop Aldhelm's CE Primary School



What will best support your child learning English?

Resources:

Games	Language/Vocabulary focus
Simon says	Instructions. parts of the body
Size Lotto	Common nouns, language of size
Teddy Bear Opposites (orchard toys)	Front/back, push/pull, over/under etc
The If..... Game (Philip and Tacey)	Common nouns, food, transport, animals
Teddy Bears Colour Match Express (Orchard Toys)	Colours
The house that Jack Built	Colours, part of the house, shape
Picture Dominoes	Common noun

Source: Games and books for EAL learners A guide to working with children in the early years (Herefordshire council)



Love



Unity



Courage



Inspiration

Bishop Aldhelm's CE Primary School



What will best support your child learning English?

Resources:

Games	Language/Vocabulary focus
Press & Peel	Various common scenes-school, home, farm, shop, seaside
Magnetic Storyboard with story packs	Book language, common nouns, verbs
Guess Who?	Physical descriptions, clothes (Barrier games)
What's in the Bag?	Any set of objects <u>e.g.</u> classroom equipment/animals/vehicles/play food
The Shopping List game	Common supermarket items
Any dice and board games	Directions, Counting and taking turns

Source: Games and books for EAL learners A guide to working with children in the early years (Herefordshire council)



Love



Unity



Courage



Inspiration

Bishop Aldhelm's CE Primary School



How might these children use language?

- They might go through an extended “silent period” on first being exposed to English in the setting (in my view, it would be better to call this a “listening period” because what children are doing is absorbing new language);
- They might “code switch” – starting sentences in one language and finishing in another;
- They might listen to parents speaking one language, but only respond in English.

All of these things are fine!



Love



Unity



Courage



Inspiration

Bishop Aldhelm's CE Primary School



How can I help myself to learn English?

[Learning with us - Skills & Learning Adult Community Education
\(skillsandlearningace.com\)](https://skillsandlearningace.com)

Duolingo app

Watching TV and films with English subtitles on



duolingo



Love



Unity



Courage



Inspiration

Bishop Aldhelm's CE Primary School



Where to go for more:

[The Best Start In Life Toolkit](#)

Wiltshire Speech and Language Therapy Service have produced an information leaflet for parents that you can find at

www.wiltshirechildrensservices.co.uk/speech-language-therapy

Wiltshire EMTAS have messed about with Development Matters to add some additional EAL advice and you can see the results [here](#).

The National Literacy Trust have produced a series of bilingual quick tips in 18 languages (so far) that you can find [here](#).



Love



Unity



Courage



Inspiration

Bishop Aldhelm's CE Primary School