

Two or More Languages in Your Home? *Lucky You! Lucky Baby!*

Why so lucky?

Babies are wired to learn any language in the world and have the ability to learn more than one language at a time.

Learning how one language works builds the foundation for learning how other languages work.

An understanding of the richness of any language improves literacy skills.

Bilingualism improves brain growth and activity.

Language connects your baby to his/her culture.

How do we do this?

Speak to your child in the language that you know best. This way you model your language at its richest.

Use the “one person, one place” rule.

Have one person always speak one language to the child and another person always speak another language to the child.

Or, always speak your mother tongue when at home, and speak English when you're out in the community.

Or, speak Grandmother's language when you visit with her.

Or, speak one language during a specific activity/routine (English at bath time, French at dinner time...etc)

Teach a second language the same way you taught the first – begin with labelling, one word sentences, then short two word sentences, and onto longer sentences and more complex vocabulary

Presented by the York Region Early Literacy Specialists

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