

## Speech and Language Therapy Service

The best model for bringing your children up bilingually



## Why bring your child up bilingually ?

- They can communicate with the people in their extended family and within their community
- They can feel secure in their cultural identity and sense of belonging
- It helps their learning because they can think about ideas in both languages
- It helps them think more flexibly and creatively
- There may be economic advantages later on in you child's life.

## Points to remember ?

- Learning more than one language is a common and normal childhood experience
- No one language is more difficult to learn than another

## What is the best way to bring children up bilingually?

Children develop speech and language skills from listening to and interacting with their parents. It is very important that parents use the language that they know best and the one that they feel most comfortable in.

Remember to be consistent with the language you use when speaking to your child. It will help him to distinguish between the different languages. If a child is secure in his first language then he will learn English quickly when he starts to have experiences outside of his home.



## What if my child's speech and language is delayed? ??

- There is no evidence that bilingualism will make it harder for children with delay to speak.
- If your child's language development is delayed in his first language you should consult a speech and language therapist. ??
- The therapist will advise you on ways to promote speech and language development in the home language.

### Useful Links:

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

[www.talkingpoint.org.uk](http://www.talkingpoint.org.uk)

## For further information about this service contact:

Children's Speech and Language Therapy Service  
The Peacock Centre  
Brookfield's Campus  
351 Mill Road  
Cambridge CB1 3DF

Tel: 01223 218063

Website: [www.slc.cambridgeshire.nhs.uk](http://www.slc.cambridgeshire.nhs.uk)

If you require this information in a different format such as in large print or on audio tape, or in a different language please contact the service on the details above.

If you have any compliments about this service or suggestions for improvements, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service on 0300 131 1000 (charges may apply depending on your network) or email: [ccs-tr.pals@nhs.net](mailto:ccs-tr.pals@nhs.net).

For free, confidential health advice and information 24 hours a day, 365 days a year please contact NHS 111.