



**MULTILINGUAL
AUSTRALIA**

LANGUAGE MAINTENANCE IN FAMILIES

Handling two or more languages at home with school-age children

Subscription

Membership Benefits

- Connect with other families, learn and grow with bilingual friends
- Access to resources, workshops, camps, website & newsletter
- Initiate new projects and kids' clubs
- Be an advocate for your language
- Discounts

Annual membership (per year)

- \$10 for families and individuals or
- \$30 for organisations and professionals

OUR MISSION

Multilingual Australia helps people to connect, learn, and sustain languages by providing opportunities, and resources, and fostering strong relationships with all stakeholders.

Who We Are

Multilingual Australia, formerly known as Bilingual Families Perth, is a not-for-profit network of more than 1000 families from dozens of different language backgrounds.

We aim to identify and address the needs of children, parents and grandparents of non-English speaking backgrounds in relation to the maintenance and usage of languages other than English at home.

We work to encourage families to confidently use a language other than English for communication in the family. We wish to support and promote the use of other languages in family communication.

While our initial focus has been on families with very pre- and primary-school children, we now welcome children and family members of all ages. Our members develop the program according to their skills and identified needs.

CONNECT WITH US

Scan the QR code or visit our website for more information



<https://www.bilingualfamilies.org.au>

Facebook: BilingualFamiliesPerth

Linkedin: BilingualFamiliesPerth

info@multilingualaustalia.org.au

flip ↪

FAQ

When should I start talking to the baby in my mother tongue?

Start at birth. Babies begin to learn about language while in the womb. By speaking your mother tongue - the language you speak best — you are providing the best language model for your baby.

Can I start using my mother tongue later?

Yes, but the later you leave it, the harder will be for the child to be fluent in both languages.

Will my baby's speech be delayed?

No. There is no scientific evidence that hearing two or more languages leads to delays in language acquisition.

What if I have more questions?

Visit our website, join our community group on Facebook or e-mail us with your questions!



Try these tips:

- Make it fun! Do all sorts of activities like singing, dancing, cooking, drawing or sports. Share songs, little poems, games and rhymes with your children.
- Read, read and read to your children. Start from the moment they are born

Advantages of multilingualism

Communication skills

- Stronger bonding with extended family
- Knowing that we can communicate in different ways

Cultural appreciation

- Stronger sense of cultural identity
- Deeper acceptance and understanding of other cultures

Cognitive Learning

- Improved analytical and problem-solving skills
- A better understanding of the mechanics of the languages being learnt

Personal development

- Increased self-esteem
- Greater confidence in social interaction

Educational/Career benefits

- Knowledge of language can be built on for school exams
- Enhanced career prospects on a global scale

Strategies for families

Every family is different and has to explore and find their most suitable strategy to bilingualism. These are some of the strategies that multilingual families use:

One Parent, One Language (OPOL)

Each person consistently speaks the language she/he speaks best - recommended where both parents do not speak the minority language equally well.

Minority language at home

The minority language is spoken at home — recommended when both parents speak the minority language quite well.

Time and Place (T&P)

Parents choose which language is spoken to the child according to location, time of day or environment.

Try these tips:

- Form a Kids Language Club or Playgroup with other parents that speak your own language (we can help you with that)
- Don't force it. Enjoy their progress, praise every effort, listen to them, and make them feel
- Maintain your proficiency in our own language. Use magazines, newspapers, books, internet