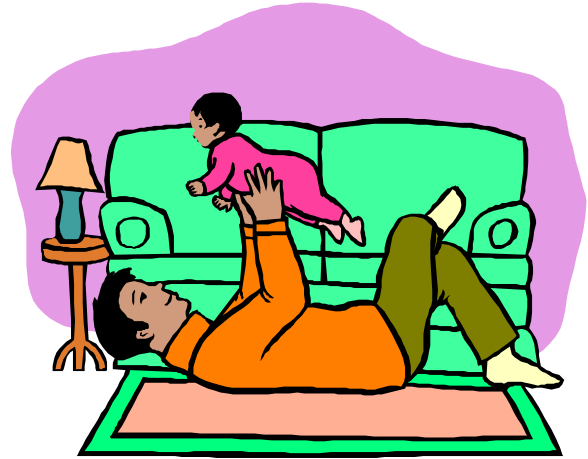


Speak to the child in your own language!

- A child starts learning a language immediately after birth when the child hears parents speaking.
- It is important that the parents speak to the child in their own mother tongue. If the parents speak different languages, both of them should **always** speak to the child in their own mother tongue.
- Speaking in the mother tongue best facilitates emotional contacts with the child.
- A good knowledge of the mother tongue is the basis for all learning. The parents have to teach their child their mother tongue and not Finnish. The child will learn Finnish in day care and at school.
- Play with your child: speak to her/him and listen to the answers.
 - * Give a name to things: "It is a spoon."
 - * Speak about the things, in which the child is interested.
 - * Don't correct the child's speaking but give her/him a good pattern of speaking:
 - The child says: "Ca..."
 - The adult says: "There is a big car driving."
- Say nursery rhymes and sing to the child in your own language. The child enjoys the rhythm.
- Look together at books: tell about the pictures of the book. The child learns new words from books.
- Video films and computer games alone do not develop child's language.



Bilingualism is a valuable thing to the child and worth of supporting!