



English as an Additional Language



Helping your child to learn at home- advice for parents and carers.

Online learning

You don't want your child to spend all day in front of a screen but there are some useful websites which may support them to learn English. The Service has produced some leaflets with information for EYFS, Primary and Secondary children which have many suggested sites

Reading

Encourage your child to read a little bit every day. They can read in English or their first language as, if they can read well in their first language, this will help them to learn to read in English. There are some websites which support reading and phonics. Audio books can be a really good support for children with their reading and enable them to access a wider variety of content.

Watching TV and films

An hour or so of watching quality TV can really help develop English skills.

- BBC programmes for children usually offer good models of English language e.g. CBeebies/CBBC/BBC bitesize
- Films – if your child can read in their first language they could watch films with subtitles (most Disney films are good for developing language).

Learning new words in English

Around the house – practise naming household items and do the same for things outside the home.

Use a bilingual dictionary to translate lists of new words and words for the curriculum. Your child's teacher may be able to assist with this in different subject areas, especially at secondary school.

Writing

Even just a few minutes of writing every day will assist with maintain and developing writing skills in English. If your child can write in their first language they might want to do that first and then translate into English. They could:

- Keep a diary include some simple things e.g. what the weather was like, what they had to eat, what they watched on TV etc.
- Describe pictures – even if this is in single words. Books and magazines could be used to find suitable images.
- Write stories based on their favourite books or films.
- Drawing pictures and talking about them in first language before writing is a good activity for real beginners or young children.