

GEMS WORLD ACADEMY DUBAI

If you want
your children
to succeed

HOLD ON

to your
home language



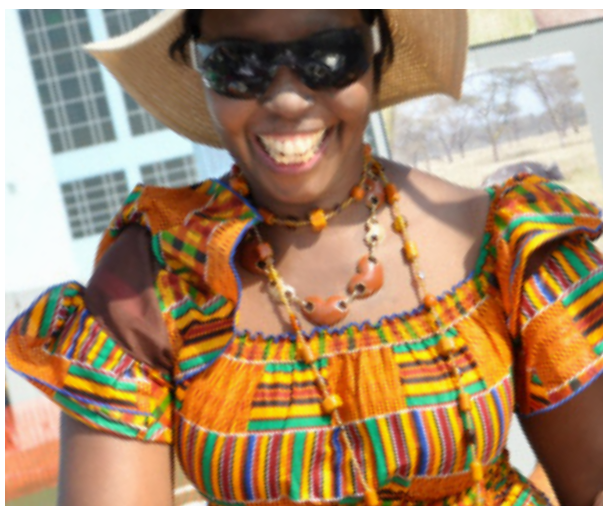
A guide to multilingualism at home and in school.

Speaking the family language in the home is important for your children!

Knowing and using the home language will develop children's:



- ✓ Security and pride in their identity.
- ✓ Understanding of their roots and heritage.



- ✓ Knowing and using the home language will sustain communication with parents, grandparents and relatives.



Children who know and use the home language:

- ✓ Learn religious practices and traditions.
- ✓ Have an additional world view.
- ✓ Have a wide choice of college or university acceptance.
- ✓ Have a greater choice in the job market.

Speaking the family language in the home will help your children to...

Learn English!



Speaking the family language in the home will **NOT** interfere with your child's learning of English.

Learning English:

- ✓ Means **adding** a new language.
- ✓ Does **NOT** mean that the home language will be lost.
- ✓ Means that your child learns new words for the many things he/she already knows and understands.

The two languages work together.



Your child's knowledge of the home language will **help** him/her to learn English.

What is learned in one language is easily **transferred** in the other language.

Speaking the family language in the home will help your children to...



Do
well
in
school!

Children who know and use the home language:

- ✓ Do well on school tests and exams.
- ✓ Have a head start in reading.
- ✓ Have strong reading and writing skills.
- ✓ Do well in math, logic and problem solving.
- ✓ Are more willing and able to learn a 3rd language.

Parents...



- ✓ Encourage your children to use the family language at home.
- ✓ Take every opportunity to **TALK** with your children.
- ✓ Using two languages will **NOT** confuse your children.
- ✓ Mixing languages is normal for bilinguals. This is a sign of mastery of two linguistic systems and is **NOT** a sign of language confusion.



It is rare for both languages to be balanced:

as your child learns English, it may predominate because exposure to it is greater than exposure to the home language.



Sing songs and read books in the home language regularly with your children.



Organise playgroups with families who share the same home language.

Make your home language a family affair:

- ✓ Encourage children to use home language at home.
- ✓ Get involved in the school.

Your involvement will show your children that the home language is important.