

## At a glance:

- The best language parents can use with their children is their own first language.
- Most children are capable of learning two or three languages at the same time.
- It is important to develop their first language.

### Speech and Language Therapy Services

Central Office

Longsight Health Centre

526/528 Stockport Road

Longsight

Manchester M13 0RR

Tel: 0161 248 1208

For general information and advice about local NHS services please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) :

MFT, RMCH, Family Support Centre, Ground Floor, Oxford Road, M13 0RR.

Tel: 0161 701 8700, Fax: 0161 701 8721

Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust includes:

Manchester Royal Infirmary, Manchester Royal Eye Hospital, Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, Saint Mary's Hospital, University Dental Hospital of Manchester

You can also find more information about your local NHS at: <http://www.manchester.nhs.uk/>

SLT/45/12

## Speech and Language Therapy Services

One child  
Two Languages  
Double the fun!!



## **Is it a problem for children to learn two languages at the same time?**

Usually, children can learn two or three languages without any problems.

Children will take some time to learn this second language well. At first they will mix up the two languages but don't worry. It is important to keep developing the first language, for example, by reading books, and having regular talking time in your own language.

Any child may have specific difficulties with speech or language including a bilingual child. If the child has serious difficulties in their first language please ask a speech and language therapist to see him/her.

## **Why is it important to keep speaking your own language with your children?**

The first language is the basis for any new languages.

Children will learn additional languages, such as English, more easily if their first language is better developed.

You can help your child develop language best using your own language. This is because you know this language very well and use it most naturally with young children.

Giving your language to your child means that your child can connect better to your family and culture.

**Children who learn more than one language have many advantages in school and through their life!**