

First Language

There is a very important connection between your child's first language and the acquisition of a second language.

The deeper the child's level of knowledge in their first language, the faster students will progress in their second language.

Therefore, one of the best ways to support your child in learning English as a second language is to also support the use of their first language.

要學好英語，就先學好第一語言。



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LEARNING TOGETHER

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Supporting English Language Learners



English-Cantonese Version
建立雙語能力

傳遞給以英語為第二語言的學生與家長之信息。

Supporting Your Child

Parents often ask how they can best support their child to learn English.

As well as talking, reading and writing in the first language as often as possible, it is also important to listen to your child read.

Ideally, listen to your child read everyday.

Talk about the pictures and ask questions about the story, in your first language.

Remember, your language, your culture, is a treasure to pass on to the next generation.

每天都要聽你的孩子讀書。

Useful websites

- * Studyladder
- * EPIC (for reading)
- * Starfall (alphabet)

Top Tips

- * Talk with your child, in your strongest language - it helps them to learn.
- * Join after school activities
- * Have playdates with friends of other languages
- * Be patient with your child's learning
- * Join and use the library
- * Read every day
- * Have bilingual material at home
- * Work closely with your child's teacher
- * Sleep is important - 10-12 hours for school aged students

Learning a Second Language

Learning a second language is a long and complex process.

The day to day language can take one-two years to develop. For example, talking about with friends, talking about a holiday. This is known as BICS (Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills).

The academic language of the curriculum can take five-seven years to develop. For example, language used in topics such as science and social studies. This is known as CALP (Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency).

It also depends on other factors such as motivation and attitude.

認知學術語言能力是以雙語用於學業課程上，平均需要五至七年時間建立這方面的能力。

其他能影響學習進度的因素包括文化背景，學習環境，個人意願等。