Talk to your baby in your own language

The best way to help your child learn to talk is to talk to him as much as possible in your own language - it doesn't have to be English. That way, your child will learn to talk confidently, and will be ready to learn English when he starts at nursery or school.

- Talk to your baby in your own language about what you're doing together – when you're bathing or feeding your baby, or changing her nappy.
- Have fun with rhymes, poems and songs in your own language.
- Tell your child stories in your language. Encourage him to join in with the storytelling.
- Try to find books written in your language for your child, or try making your own.
- Encourage your child to play with children who speak the same language as she does.
- Talk to your child about what he did at playgroup or nursery in your language. If he uses English words repeat what he has said using your language. But do not correct him or make him use your language.
- Help your child feel proud of your language. If she speaks more than one language, teach her the names of the languages.
- Don't laugh or tease your child because of his accent or if he makes mistakes.

Siaradwch â'ch babi yn eich iaith eich hun

Y ffordd orau i helpu'ch plentyn i ddysgu siarad yw siarad ag e cymaint â phosibl yn eich iaith eich hun – does dim rhaid i chi siarad Cymraeg/Saesneg. Fel hyn, bydd eich plentyn yn dysgu siarad yn hyderus, a bydd yn barod i ddysgu Cymraeg/Saesneg pan fydd yn dechrau yn y feithrinfa neu'r ysgol.

- Siaradwch â'ch babi yn eich iaith eich hun am y pethau rydych yn eu gwneud gyda'ch gilydd – pan fyddwch yn rhoi bath neu'n bwydo'ch babi, neu'n newid ei chlwt.
- Gallwch gael hwyl gyda rhigymau, cerddi a chaneuon yn eich iaith eich hun.
- Adroddwch storïau wrth eich plentyn yn eich iaith chi. Anogwch ef i ymuno wrth i chi adrodd y stori.
- Ceisiwch ddod o hyd i lyfrau sydd wedi'u hysgrifennu yn eich iaith chi ar gyfer eich plentyn, neu ceisiwch wneud eich llyfrau eich hun.
- Anogwch eich plentyn i chwarae gyda phlant sy'n siarad yr un iaith â hi.
- Siaradwch â'ch plentyn yn eich iaith chi am yr hyn mae wedi ei wneud yn y cylch chwarae neu'r feithrinfa. Os yw'n defnyddio geiriau Cymraeg/Saesneg, ailadroddwch yr hyn mae wedi'i ddweud gan ddefnyddio'ch iaith chi. Ond peidiwch â'i gywiro na gwneud iddo ddefnyddio'ch iaith chi.
- Helpwch eich plentyn i deimlo'n falch o'ch iaith. Os yw hi'n siarad mwy nag un iaith, dysgwch enwau'r ieithoedd iddi.
- Peidiwch â chwerthin na thynnu coes eich plentyn oherwydd ei acen neu os yw'n gwneud camgymeriadau.

Welsh translation produced with support from the Basic Skills Strategy for Wales.

© Posy Simmonds

Talk To Your Baby

Quick tips may be photocopied. For more information visit www.talktoyourbaby.org.uk
Talk To Your Baby is an initiative of the National Literacy Trust.
Reference: *Bilingual Children: a guide for parents and carers* (1994), Foufou Savitzky, South Bank University: London