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Comfort Play & Teach:

A Positive Approach to Parenting™

Every Day

Activities for Children Speaking Two Languages at Home

There are many simple activities that parents can do with their child to encourage his or her language development when two languages are spoken at home. Looking at books, listening to music, playing games and having conversations at meal time are a few ways to spend some **Comfort, Play & Teach™** time developing your child's language skills.



Comfort

- Include books in both languages as part of a child's bed time routine. Both parents can enjoy this relaxing time with their child, reading favourite stories that enrich their child's experience of speaking, listening to and reading in different languages.
- Listen to recordings of your favourite music in both languages. You and your child can dance to the melody or she can sing along if she knows the words. Play lullabies at nap time or as background music to activities like drawing and painting. Music evokes different feelings, and listening to it can build your child's confidence in understanding the words and in using them.



Play

- When reciting familiar rhymes or doing fingerplays in either of the two languages, leave out words from time to time and encourage your child to fill in the blanks. Your child will love demonstrating how well he remembers the words while gaining important practice in using both languages in a way that is fun.
- Play a game of *I Spy* in both languages, providing clues about different things in the environment. Your child can guess what you are looking at based on things like its colour, shape, size or function. Encourage your child to give clues to you as well. This activity will provide opportunities both to speak and to listen.

Visit www.investinkids.ca for more
Comfort Play & Teach™ activities



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Teach

- Write short letters to family members who speak the languages used at home. Your child can dictate what she would like the letter to say and parents can write down the words and read them back. This allows your child to express ideas verbally and also to see the connection between spoken and written words.
- Whether you are cooking, doing laundry, shopping or repairing something, take turns talking to your child in your native language about what is happening. Describing different things about the activity will build your child's vocabulary, while asking questions about what you are doing will encourage your child to use these new words and to talk about his experiences.

What a child will be depends on you and me™

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