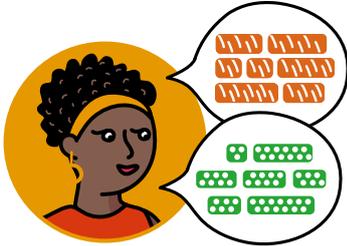


1

Meal and bath

Language change according to the situation



The mother speaks two languages fluently (the language of the hosting society and her mother tongue). She speaks to her child in the language of the society during the meals but in her mother tongue when she gives the child a bath. Her child is exposed to two languages.

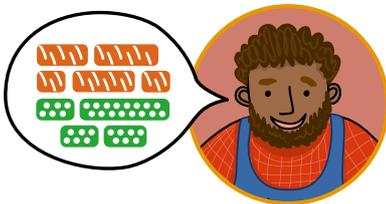


A same person can address their children in multiple languages depending on the situation. For the child, this is an opportunity to learn different languages.

2

At the table!

Code switching between utterances



The mother is monolingual. The father speaks two languages (the language of the mother and the language of the hosting society) fluently and uses both languages at home. He sometimes switches languages between utterances in the presence of his child.



Language switching is a common practice in plurilingual families. This does not pose a problem for children as they will be able to differentiate between languages progressively.

3

The game

Code switching within an utterance



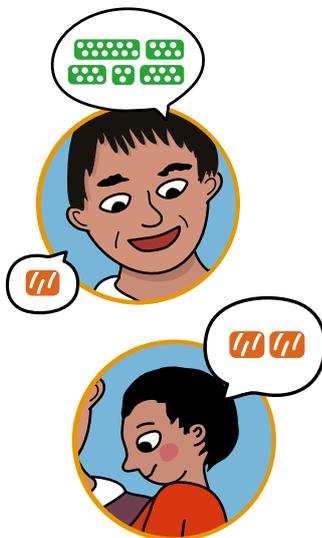
The mother speaks two languages (her mother tongue and the language of the hosting society) fluently. She addresses the child using utterances that include words from both languages. The child is exposed to language switching within the same utterance.

Language switching within an utterance is a common practice for plurilingual families. This shouldn't be a problem for the child as it mainly involves lexical borrowings (see card 3, point of caution)

4

At the supermarket

Languages and bans



In the supermarket, a father talks to his child using the language of society, which he knows a little, whereas he could talk to him much more and much better if he used the language of his family.

The father forbids himself to use a language other than the language of society in a public space.

In a public space, it is not always seen acceptable to use another language than the language of the society. Some parents prefer to use French to comply with a rule that is not spoken but that still has prohibition power. However, to explain, convince, ask for something or make a child obey, the language of the family is more precise and more effective.

5

In the playground

Exposure to and use of several languages depending on who you are talking to



Families who speak different mother tongues meet in the playground. The children speak the language of the society while playing together.

Children adapt themselves to the situations they are in and choose the language needed for the communication. Diversity of languages does not contradict with being able to use a common language.

6

A new language to learn!

Language levels and uses



The family still does not have a good command of the language of the society, and at home, it is the language of the family that is used 100 % of the time. The mother is learning the language of the society in a language course for adults.

Until mastering the language of the society sufficiently, the language of the parents remains to be the most adapted and the richest one to communicate within the family.

7

At preschool

Awakening to the diversity of languages in class



In the corner of the school room, children play together in a free activity and use a language that is not that of the school to communicate among themselves. The teacher tells a story to another group in the language of the society. A third group of children listen to a song together in another language.

At school, the use of multiple languages is possible. The child thus learns that there are no forbidden languages, but that there are rules for using according to the needs and skills of each person.

8

In class

Languages to communicate or think



In the classroom, a child thinks using the language of the family to better succeed in an exercise whose instructions are in the language of the society.

Languages serve as tools to communicate, but also to think. Sometimes the language of the family is more efficient than the language of the society to complete certain tasks (e.g., counting, remembering, planning, etc.)

9

At nursery school

The use of languages according to the context



When arriving at the nursery school, the child speaks to his father in the language of the family. The teacher addresses the father in the language of the society.

At the nursery school, the use of several languages is desirable. This will enhance the affective continuity between home and the nursery.

10

At home

Alternating languages for a same activity, with different adults



The father speaks to the child in his first language during all daily activities (e.g., getting dressed, taking a bath, etc.). The mother also speaks to the child in her first language, which is not the same as the father's, during daily activities.

The strategy of having each parent speak in their native language with the child is possible but not mandatory.

11

Tell me a story

From one language to another to help child's language development



The parent tells the child a story in the language of the family while looking at the images and the story in a book written in the language of the society.

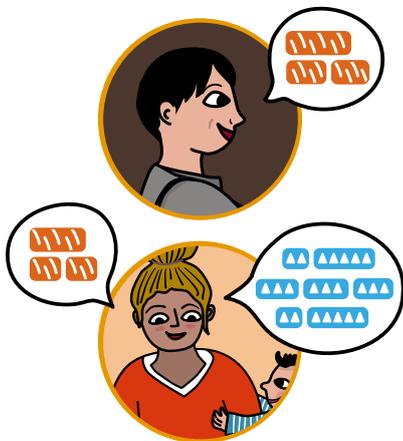


For the parents who are not literate, a book written in the language of the society is a very beneficial tool to support the language and to transmit knowledge. The language of the family, in this case, is the best language to transfer the adults' knowledge.

12

At the nanny's

Introduction to a second language



The parents talk to the child in the language of the society and the caretaker speaks in another language.

A child who is exposed regularly to another language different that of the family will acquire that language naturally.

13

Family meal

Preserve the intergenerational link



Over a festive meal, members of all generations speak in the language of the family.

In order to preserve the intergenerational link and to transfer knowledge, the language of the family is indispensable.

14

Look at the Pane!

Correct without interrupting



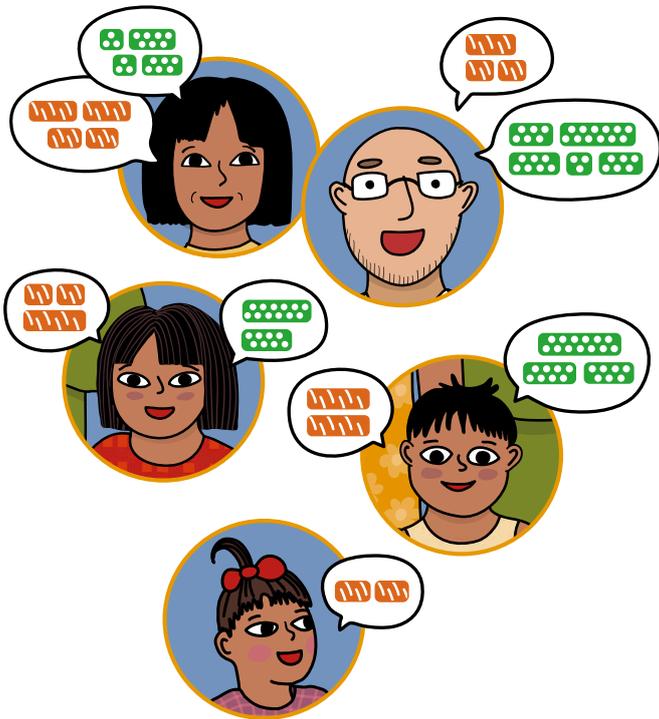
The child makes errors when speaking. The parents correct these errors indirectly without attracting attention on them.

It is better to correct the errors without directly signalling them but by repeating the statements of the child in the correct way or by reformulating the statements free of errors. This is a valid procedure regardless of the language chosen.

15

Last of siblings

Family linguistic organizations: all different!



The language of the society and the language of the family can be used differently depending on the birth order of the children. In a family, some use both languages while some others do not.

Within the same family, it is possible that not all the children have the same language backgrounds. There are sometimes big differences in the competence levels of languages between the elder children and the younger ones.

Sometimes it is even possible that the younger ones do not understand the language of the family which is still an important and useful tool at home.

16

Festive meal

The diversity of languages



During this intergenerational meal, the mother serves as an interpreter for family members who have no common language. The mother's companion does not master either the language of the society spoken by the daughter, nor the dialect spoken by the maternal grandparents. The grandparents are not competent in the companion's mother tongue at all, and have little command of the language of the society.

Given globalization and current population movements, there are currently more societies that are multilingual than the ones that are monolingual. The majority of their members learn several languages throughout their lives and use them depending on the context. It often happens that several languages come into contact with more or less competent speakers.