

## **MOST COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

### **1. English is not our first language. Do we need to speak English to our children?**

No. Speak to your children in the language you are most comfortable with. Children need to hear good language models in the home.

### **2. *Won't our children learn English faster if we speak English at home?***

Not necessarily. The stronger your child's skills are in their first language, the faster they will learn the new language (English).

### **3. *My husband and I speak different languages. What language should we speak to our children?***

Each speaker should speak the language they are most comfortable speaking. This could mean that the mother would speak one language to the child and the father would speak another language.

### **4. *Won't learning two languages be confusing for my children?***

No. Children all over the world learn more than one language. Speaking more than one language is an advantage.

### **5. *My children do not want to speak our language at home. What should we do?***

You can continue to speak your first language even if your children choose to talk in English.

### **6. *Why should we continue to speak our first language if we now live in Canada/Winnipeg?***

Language is one of the strongest ties to your culture and heritage. Continuing to speak your home language will help your children learn their history and culture and maintain their relationships with older family members.

### **7. *What can I do to help my child develop our first language in the home?***

- Talk to your child
- Read to your child every day
- Encourage your child to tell you stories from the pictures in the books
- Take your child places and talk about what you see
- Tell family stories
- Use new words, use them often.
- Repeat your child's sentence after them and add to it
- Look at your child when you are talking to them
- Talk about what your child is doing
- Talk about what you are doing
- Listen to music; sing together



Where to find books in other languages?

The Millennium Library  
251 Donald Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3P5  
Phone: (204)986-6432



If your child is having difficulty understanding and speaking in both your home language and in English, they may need help from a speech language pathologist. Talk to your Classroom Teacher.

## **Immigrant Services :**

Immigrant Women's Association of  
Manitoba, Inc.  
University of Winnipeg Library  
4th floor - 515 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, Mb. R3B 2E9 Tel: 989-5800

International Centre of Winnipeg  
406 Edmonton Street  
Winnipeg, MB. R3B 2M2 Tel: 943-9158

## **Refugee Services:**

Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council  
Welcome Place  
397 Carlton Street  
Winnipeg , MB. R3B 2K9 Tel: 977-1000

Needs Centre for War Affected Families  
251 A Notre Dame Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB. R3B 1N8 Tel: 940-1260

## **Community Health Clinic:**

Mount Carmel Clinic  
886 Main Street  
Winnipeg, MB. R2W 5L4 Tel: 582-2311

DO YOU  
SPEAK  
ANOTHER  
LANGUAGE  
AT HOME?

English



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION  
Child Guidance Clinic