



Compass International School Doha
Learning Well, Enjoying Life, Exceeding Expectations

EAL at Compass And Mother Tongue

What does EAL look like at Compass?

Staff:

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What we do

- ▶ Test children with limited English.
 - ▶ Withdraw children during French/Dutch to support in class work, for English, Maths, IPC.
 - ▶ Dutch First Language students are withdrawn at a separate time.
 - ▶ In class support where possible.
 - ▶ Assist class teachers with resources.
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What we do.

- ▶ Provide an EAL report twice a year.
 - ▶ Meet with parents every term during PT conferences.
 - ▶ Run an Intensive English program for 4 weeks during term one.
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What we do

- ▶ Meet with class teachers regularly to discuss EAL students progress.
 - ▶ Plan lessons with class teachers.
 - ▶ Train staff.
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Languages at Compass—can you spot yours?

American, Afrikaans, Arabic, Austrian, Australian, Belgian, British, Canadian, Chinese, Danish, Dutch, Egyptian, Faoese, Farquese, French, German, Greek, Hindi, Hungarian, Italian, Iranian, Indian, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, L?, Mandarin, Marathi, Malaysian, Malayalam, Mynamar, New Zealand, Norwegian, Nigerian, Pakistani, Palestinian, Persian, Peruvian, Polish, Portuguese, Qatari, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Somali, Sudanese, Swedish, Tatar, Tagalog, Thai, Tulu, Tunisian, Turkish, Urdu, Visaya, W?, X? Yoruba, Z?

Have we missed any?




How can you help your child learn English at home?

- ▶ Relax!
- ▶ Support their mother tongue....



What does Mother Tongue Mean?

- ▶ First language, mother tongue, home language.
 - ▶ The first language you spoke to your children when they were babies.
 - ▶ The language of a child's culture.
 - ▶ A child can have two mother tongues.
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Research shows that....

- ▶ More than 150 research studies over the past 35 years strongly support what Goethe, the German philosopher said;

The person who knows only one language does not truly know that language.



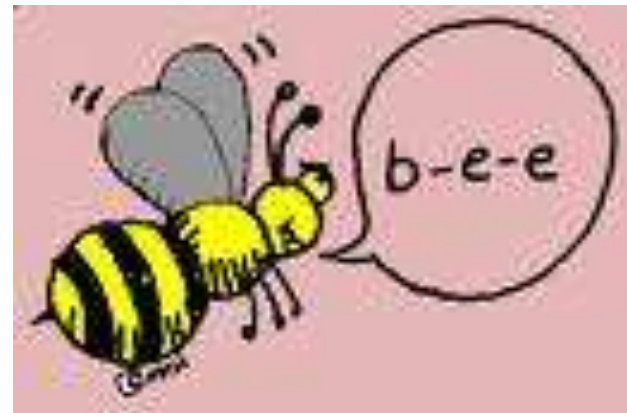
Role of Mother Tongue



- Part of the roots of your children, cultural identity
- Link to family, friends and country
- Necessary for children to reintegrate into their home country, national school or university
- It is the language which your child will connect new learning with.

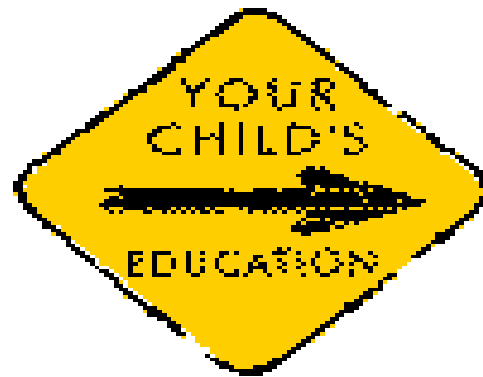
Why support Mother Tongue?

- ▶ Level of a child's development in their Mother Tongue is a strong predictor of second language development.



Role Mother tongue plays in educational development?

Four points according to Prof. Jim Cummins, leading researcher in second language acquisition, Ontario University



1. Bilingual learners are the best learners! (Baker 2000)

- ▶ By learning two or more languages children gain a greater understanding of how language works
- ▶ Compare and contrast
- ▶ Knowledge and skills transfer across two languages



2. A strong supported mother tongue does not hurt children learning English

- ▶ No negative effects
- ▶ Sometimes mix, but sort out later
- ▶ Global form of communication,



3. Developing literacy in your MT is an extremely efficient means of developing literacy in SLA

- ▶ profoundly accelerate the development of reading ability in second language
- ▶ transfers into the second language, even when writing signs are different
- ▶ provides knowledge of the world and helps with school



4. Mother tongue is fragile and easily lost in early years of school

- ▶ Children pick up ‘playground English’ really quickly

BUT

- ▶ Children can lose their mother tongue as quickly
- ▶ Extent and rapidity of language loss will vary according to how much it is used
- ▶ Can lose within 2–3 years of starting school—retain receptive skills but respond in English to peers and parents



How parents can support

Mother Tongue at home:



- Decide on a family language policy,
- Reading, have a diverse library, videos, games, friends...aim to be bi literate not just bilingual
- Visit home country for extended holidays
- Support IPC in MT with research and discuss
- Email friends and relatives abroad in MT.

How parents can support



At school:

- Books for library; donation
- Read to other children in Mother Tongue
- Support cultural days
- bring books in Mother Tongue from home country



Conclusion

Let us look after the English language.

We need you to **support your child's mother tongue!**



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