



LEARNING WELL, ENJOYING LIFE, EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

How can I help my child at home?

- 1) When you watch a DVD put the spoken language to English and put the subtitles on to show your Mother Tongue. (This will help your child to match the sounds of English to familiar words in your Mother Tongue. It is not as effective to put the spoken language to your Mother Tongue and the subtitles to English!)
- 2) Make time for English speaking only. (This means EVERYONE speaks English – Mum, Dad, brothers, sisters, maids, drivers etc). This only has to be ten minutes per day at first. Then you can make the time longer by ten minutes every ten days. You could choose a morning time, an evening time or a mealtime. (This will help your child to speak more fluently and get used to listening to spoken English)
- 3) Buy and read an English language comic/book with pictures (not a newspaper). Ask your child to explain the story (in English!) to you. Your child could also translate what the characters say into your Mother Tongue.
- 4) Watch an English language television programme and then discuss it in your Mother tongue.
- 5) Read English books together and discuss them in your Mother Tongue, read Mother Tongue books together then discuss them in English.
- 6) Find an article (in an English Language OR Mother tongue newspaper). Discuss a current news topic (England's awful World Cup performance, the BP oil slick, Qatar's 2022 World Cup bid) in English.
- 7) Keep a diary of your summer break, recording events in English one day and mother tongue on the alternate day. Make sure to include photos.

Compass International School Doha

An international school located in the State of Qatar owned and managed by Education Overseas Qatar LLC (CR No. 33520)

PO Box 23479, Doha, State of Qatar Phone:

+974 4487 7445 (Gharaffa Campus)

+974 4493 2036 (Madinat Khalifa Campus)

+974 4411 4288 (Rayyan Campus)

Fax: +974 4487 7446

Email: info@cisdoha.org

Web: www.cisdoha.com



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- 8) Children can send emails to their friends in English and mother tongue to their native speaking friends.
- 9) Research IPC topics in Mother Tongue on the internet.
- 10) Enjoy being at home in your home country! It is important for children to develop language skills and concepts in their mother tongue, as this assists them to make connections in English.

Learning the English language is easier when your child is able to use his/her Mother tongue fluently.

Remember to laugh and have fun!

Useful Websites for English Language Activities

www.A4.org

www.starfall.com

www.ictgames.com

References

- Bilingual Children's Mother Tongue: Why is it important for Education
- **Children's Mother Tongue: Why Is It Important** <http://www.iteachilearn.com/cummins/mother.htm>
- Krashen Stephen-<http://www.sdkrashen.com/main.php3>
- Website with a large number of books on bilingualism www.multilingual-matters
- Pollock and Van Reken, (2001) Third Culture Kids
- Cunningham-Andersson, (2008) Growing up with two languages, a practical guide
- Colin Baker, (2004) A parents' and teachers' guide to bilingualism

Lorraine Maher, Mike Glover, Vicki Todd, Bryson Wood

EAL Team

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