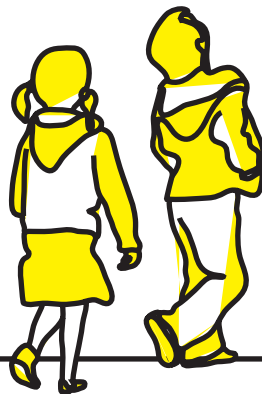




# What is bilingualism?

Help  
your child  
with  
your  
language



**Mother tongue:**  
The language of one  
or both parents.  
A child can  
have more than  
one mother tongue.

ENSKA

## Móðurmál

– Organisation on bilingualism

We advocate mother tongue teaching for bilingual children and help parents to create groups where their language is taught.

Many groups are active and new language groups are being formed all the time. We also want to increase knowledge of bilingualism by general discourse and education.

Do you want to know more? [www.modurmál.com](http://www.modurmál.com)  
Do you want to join us? [modurmál@hotmail.com](mailto:modurmál@hotmail.com)  
Contact us! **We're also on Facebook**

Móðurmál – Organisation on bilingualism in cooperation with the City of Reykjavík with finance from The Development Fund for Immigrant Issues.

### Bilingual and multilingual:

Children that speak one language at home and another outside the home are bilingual. Children that speak two or more languages at home and another outside the home are bilingual or multilingual. About 70% of the people on Earth are bilingual and use more than one language daily. Children can easily learn two languages at the same time.

### All languages of the child are important.

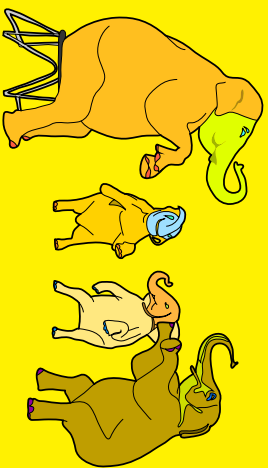
The language is the key to communication both with the family in Iceland and with family members abroad. Good language skills contribute to a strong self-image and help the child participate both in his parents' society and in Icelandic society.

Bilingual children find it easier to learn other languages in the future. They will also have more career and educational opportunities.

# How do you help your child with your language?

Always speak your own language with your child. That way it learns more. You should not shame the child for answering you in another language but repeat what it said in your language and continue the conversation.

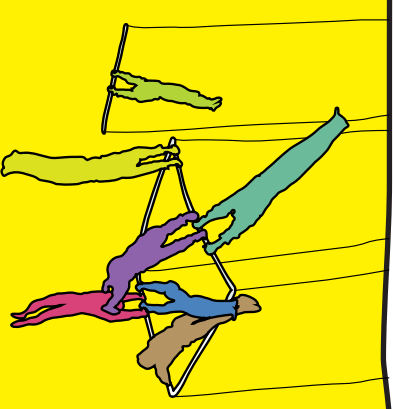
It is best to create a variety of opportunities for the child to use the mother tongue by using and teaching complicated words and phrases that do not only include **"come to eat, go to sleep, brush your teeth"** and so on.



Take the child to events where their mother tongue is spoken so (s)he can see other people use to communicate.



Teach the child stories, nursery rhymes, songs, fairy tales and games that are part of your culture and language.



Ask the child what (s)he did at school. You can help him/her with homework by talking about the work and finding similar material on the internet or in books.

## Do not mix languages when talking to the child.

Use the mother tongue to talk about TV programmes and films the child likes to watch.

Cook and bake together, look at cookbooks together or use the internet to find recipes in your language that are connected to your culture.

Read to the child and talk to him/her about the content.

