



## Do you and your family speak English as a second language?

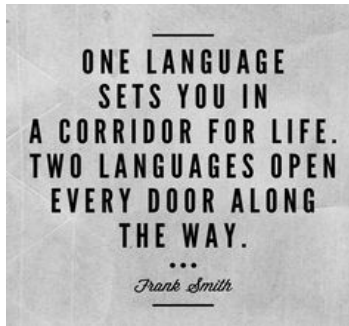


## Would you like assistance at St Emilie's for improving your child's English?

### Supporting your Child

#### Sharing books

Reading at home is important. You can do this in your first language, talking about the pictures and what is happening in the story. The important thing is to enjoy reading together.



**Homework at primary school:** - Ways to help your child:

- Ask questions and talk about the topics studied in your first language
- Have access to a bilingual dictionary
- Encourage them to write down any new words in English or first language to help them remember them
- If they do not understand something encourage them to ask the teacher to explain it again

### Supporting your Child with Homework

At St Emilie's we have a homework club that runs once a week for grades 4-6. Please Enquire at the front desk if you would like your child to participate.

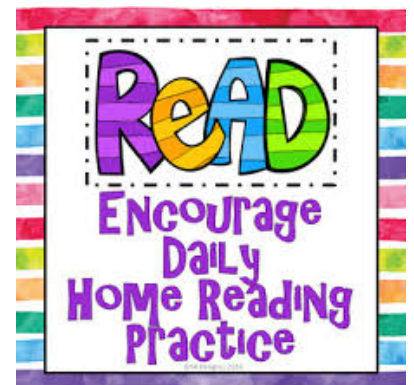
#### Purposeful Practice (Homework) at primary school

It is usual for young children to have some school work to do at home (homework), for example, taking photos of home or family, sharing special objects or celebrations with the class.

### Speaking in your Home Language

It is very important for children learning English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D) to continue to use their first language at home as well as English.

- First languages help families share values, traditions and cultural identities. If children can speak and write in their first language, they can make new friends in their community and keep in touch with family and friends in their own country or region.
- Children who speak another language often learn English well because they see when words are similar (or have a similar meaning). They can also use what they know about grammar and pronunciation in their first language to help them with English grammar and pronunciation. This is also the same for learning other languages.



- Speaking more than one language improves thinking skills, memory and brain health
- Employers value people who are good at languages so there may be more job opportunities in the future!

### Ways to help your child maintain their first language

- Sing songs, tell stories and share books in your first language
- Tell jokes, learn rhymes and have fun with language
- Watch television programmes or DVDs and talk about what happened
- Talk together at mealtimes. Use your first language.
- Stay in contact with family and friends by talking together on Skype or writing messages on WhatsApp, Facebook, etc.
- Buy or borrow dual (2) language books from the library for your child to read
- Attend social events in the community

“To have another language is to possess a second soul”

Charlemagne

[www.bilingualkidspot.com](http://www.bilingualkidspot.com)

### What if my child refuses to speak our first language?



It is normal for children to prefer one language over another at different times especially outside of the home.

Schools respect and value your first language and it is important for children to feel proud of their language and culture.

Explain the importance of being bilingual to your child and keep speaking to them in the language you are most confident in.

### Improving your English

There are many ways that you can improve your own English.

Website 1: <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/>

Website 2: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/>

If you would like any advice or assistance in developing your child's English learning at St Emilie's please contact Mrs Tracy Aroozoo at our school for guidance.

[tracy.aroozoo@cewa.edu.au](mailto:tracy.aroozoo@cewa.edu.au)

