

# OUR MULTILINGUAL CHILD

Family language strategy and the child's language development

3 to 4 years

## Our multilingual strategy

Did you have to make any changes in your initial strategy?

word of advice

When your child starts preschool and is exposed to a new language, he/she may speak the home language less for a while. Don't worry and just keep going. If your child speaks to you in the preschool language, you can answer in the home language. This is also the time to reflect again on how you will embrace the new language at home.



## Multilingual language skills

Tick off the things your child can do in each language. (L = language)

Our child can already	L1:	L2:	L3:
Speak in sentences longer than three words			
Pronounce the different sounds in the language			
Be understood easily by others			
Understand and follow simple two-step directions (e.g. <i>Take this book and put it on the shelf</i> )			
Say when he/she is sad, happy or in pain			
Name various colours			
Name various animals			
Name various items of clothing			
Name various food items			
Sing simple songs			

word of advice

If your child is approaching the age of four and you notice that a lot of skills mentioned here are still missing, consult a specialist.



## Boost multilingual language development!



Expand on what your child is saying.  
e.g. *Car is gone* > *Yes, the red car is driving away*

Limit screentime and let your child talk about what he/she was watching.



Find a playmate with the same home language.

Create occasions for language interaction with family and friends. Here and abroad!

Sing, read and recite with your child. It helps the child make a connection between the language and the culture of the country where the language is spoken.

