

*Children want to talk.
Language is important.
How to help your child.*

Information for parents and guardians



Why is language so important for children right from the start?

Children need language always and everywhere. They talk amongst the family.

They talk and play with other children. Language is also important later on. At school and at work.

That is why the first years of life are very important.

Support your child.



Films: This is how children learn to talk
www.kinder-4.ch

You will find a large number of films on this website of the Department of Education of the Canton of Zurich. The films show how children learn to talk and how you can help. Talk to your child – always and everywhere.



Read books, recite nursery rhymes
www.interbiblio.ch

Intercultural libraries in Switzerland. These libraries contain books in many languages from many different cultures. Look at the map to find a library near you.



www.vers-und-reim.net

You will find nursery rhymes in many languages from many cultures here: For example: En ten tini, savaraka tini, savaraka tika taka, bija, baja, buf, trif, traf, truf!



www.buchstart.ch

Buchstart – Look at books with young children



www.sikjm.ch

Tell me a story - Stories in many languages

What can you do?

- 1. Talk to your child often.**

Children need to talk to adults.
So it's important that you talk to your child often and everywhere.
For example: while shopping, eating or on the train.
Allow plenty of time for long conversations.
Making mistakes when talking is not important.
But what is important is that you must understand each other.
- 2. Let your child talk to other children.**

Children learn a lot while playing, including how to talk.
That is why they need contact with other children.
Let your child play with other children.
Allow your child time to play and learn.
- 3. Listen carefully to your child.**

Children want to tell us something.
That's why they love to talk to us.
Give your child time to talk.
Listen carefully to your child.
Show interest and ask questions.
This will improve your understanding of your child.
- 4. Use language for everything.**

You can do a lot with language, for example: tell your child about something, make up a story, explain the world.
Talk about things that interest children.
Talk about feelings.
Take time to talk.
A long conversation is valuable for your child.
- 5. Explain writing to your child.**

There are letters, numbers and pictures everywhere: in books, on mobile phones, on TV, on signs.
Explain these things to your child.
Look at children's books or watch films together.
Talk about what you see.
This will help your child later in school and in the modern, digital world.
- 6. Speak the language you know best.**

At home, speak the language you know best with your child.
Your child will speak German at their toddler group, playgroup or day-care centre.
This way your child will learn two languages.
This is a great opportunity for your child and will help later in preschool and at school.
Let your child play with German-speaking children at an early age.
Speak the language you know best with your child.

Do you have any questions?

Ask at your local community playgroup, toddler group or parents' advice centre in your municipality. The experts there will be happy to help you.

Further information is available from the Koordinationsstelle Familienfragen (Coordination Office for Family Matters).

Email: familienfragen@ddi.so.ch, Tel. 032 627 22 85

You can find us at: so.ch/fruehe-foerderung



Basic information:

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the Department of Education of the Canton of Zurich

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