

# Give your child a gift: Talk with them in your first language every day!

**Why is your first language important?**



**The language you speak with your children:**

- ✓ Is the first language they will learn
  - ✓ Is the language they first use to learn about the world
  - ✓ Is their connection to their family, culture, and community
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- **Your language is the most precious gift you can give to your children.** Children can learn English and succeed in school without having to lose their first language.
  - Bilingualism—speaking two languages—has great benefits. It opens many doors and opportunities. **Being bilingual helps children build stronger thinking skills.**
  - **Children can learn several languages at the same time**—having a strong foundation in their first language helps children learn English.
  - Sometimes children combine words and phrases from both languages. **Don't worry—they are not confused.** This is a sign that they are learning the rules and vocabulary from both languages!
  - **Talk and read to your child in your first language**—share family and traditional stories, songs, poems, and rhymes!