**Working with EAL Pupils in Nursery**

New to English



**Partnership with Parents**

**Enrolment and Preparing for a New Pupil**

**Enrolment and Preparing for a New Pupil**

* It is important to have a good relationship with

parents. It should be made possible for bilingual parents to have equal access to what you provide and to be as equally involved as the other parents. For parents who are new to English, keep you language simple, use gestures, pictures and dictionaries

* Arrange interpreters for parents meetings.
* Telephone interpreting can be used in an emergency, although you must pay for the phone call at 70p a minute
* Translations are not paid for and can be expensive. Standard letters in many languages can be found at [Letters Home](http://www.ealhighland.org.uk/eal-resource-purpose/letters/)
* Parents are a good resource for background information about culture and religion and possibly translating important notices.
* Know the child's name and how to pronounce it.

Do the parents/ carers speak English? (you may need an interpreter) . Interpreters are paid for centrally.

* Does the pupil have any siblings? Liaison with other schools to aid support may be needed.
* Are there any dietary/ religious requirements? (i.e. fasting, dress code, festivals to celebrate?)
* What is the pupil’s home language? Some languages also have a number of dialects so try to find out as much as possible.
* Has the child attended another nursery and where did they go?
* Are there any other family members or friends living nearby?
* Make your nursery a welcoming environment by

putting up signs in your pupil’s first language.

* Learn some basic words/ phrases in the new pupil’s language. [Language of the Month](https://www.newburyparkschool.net/lotm/index.html) is a great website for both staff and pupils to hear different languages being spoken.
* Collect some dual language resources for your nursery

and picture dictionaries. See [www.mantralingua.com](http://www.mantralingua.com)

 for dual language resources in a range of languages.

* Take photos to make into a leaflet of the nursery e.g.

toilet, library, snack time, outdoor area, different play areas etc.

* Use a visual timetable so pupils understand the routine of the nursery.
* Talk to your new pupil in simple English and support your language with visuals and gestures. Talk in sentences rather than ‘pigeon English’
* Teach new pupils basic vocabulary in English such as hello, goodbye and names of nursery objects/ areas.
* If possible ask pupils who speak the same language to play with the new pupil and help them learn the routines of the nursery
* Allow the pupil to choose activities which have a low language content and give the child time to watch others.
* Support story time with props and flashcards with key visuals. See [www.sparklebox.co.uk](https://www.sparklebox.co.uk/esl/) and [https://www.twinkl.co.uk/](https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/english-as-an-additional-language-eal) for visuals to support stories.
* Teach repetitive songs and games. Allow the bilingual child to go last so they can see what to do before they take part. Remember that some children will not be ready to offer an oral response.
* Give pupils time to listen to dual language stories on CD

 or simple stories in English on the computer with a visual. content. [www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk) has great online stories.

* Invite parents to read a story to the nursery class in

their first language.

**Settling In and Strategies to Use**



**Common Questions ?**

***Are early stage learners sometimes silent for an initial period?***

*Yes, research shows that pupils who are new to English can sometimes take up to 6 months before gaining confidence to speak. It is important that you continue to speak to the pupil at every opportunity and give encouragement to any attempts at a response.*

***Should the pupil be withdrawn for beginner English lessons?***

*No, in the UK teaching and learning through English as an Additional Language does not have a separate syllabus. It takes place in mainstream nursery class and the acquisition of English occurs across all the nursery curriculum.*

***Should the pupil be encouraged to speak in their first language during the nursery class with one of their peers?***

*Yes, the reinforcement and clarification of the learning in their first language will progress their cognitive skills and will also contribute to their English language development.*

***For more information and resources*** *–* [*http://www.ealhighland.org.uk/*](http://www.ealhighland.org.uk/)