Children need to learn their first language well. This will help them:

- Stay connected with family
- Take part in their cultural community
- Learn English well

Research shows children learning more than one language have:

- Better awareness of how words sound and rhyme
- A more creative use of language in writing and talking

Research shows that learning more than one language in early childhood helps children in their schoolwork.

Parents Can Help...

- Speak to your child in the language you know best
- Talk more and watch TV less
- Talk during daily activities (mealtimes, bath time) with your children
- Talk about pictures you see in books and make connections to your child’s own experiences
- Try to keep languages separate. Try to speak each language without mixing them in one sentence.

Sharing books is a good time to do this.

Other fact sheets on parenting your child are available at your local Community Health Office/Centre or online at http://vch.eduhealth.ca

For more information, contact a Speech-Language Pathologist or Public Health Nurse at Vancouver Coastal Health www.vch.ca