

**Helping Your Child Become Bilingual**  
**Gungahlin Library, Saturday 25 February 2017 10.30-11.30am**

One Parent Language strategy or Time or Place strategy

- For parents who speak the target language. For tips for non-native speakers see

<https://onraisingbilingualchildren.com/2013/06/24/im-not-a-native-speaker-is-that-okay/>

<http://multilingualparenting.com/2015/05/14/qa-how-to-teach-a-non-native-language-english-to-toddler/>

Playgroups

- See ACTBEA website list of language based playgroups. Check with leaders to see if they welcome non-fluent parents/carers. <http://actbilingual.weebly.com/language-playgroups.html>
- Advantage – you learn along with the child

Language Programs

- For list see: <http://actbilingual.weebly.com/language-programs-for-children.html>
- Some Community Language Schools specifically cater for kids from other backgrounds

Networking with other families

- Playdates do you know families who speak the language?
- Make contact with Canberra bilingual families Facebook page: [https://web.facebook.com/groups/374193169405460/?\\_rdr](https://web.facebook.com/groups/374193169405460/?_rdr)
- Attend ACTBEA events; receive ACTBEA newsletter (contact [canberrabilingual@gmail.com](mailto:canberrabilingual@gmail.com))

Babysitters

Contact networks above plus colleges and universities to seek out possible babysitters/carers who speak the target language

Music

- Kids' songs for the young ones, pop music as they get older.
- Listen to CDs or MP3s to and sing along to them, including in the car.

Reading

- Reading is key to broadening vocabulary, deepening understanding and strengthening your child's grasp of grammar, in all languages.
- If you don't read the target language, look for books with CDs, eBooks, online videos with writing, and online versions of stories/books you know in English.
- Don't forget the local library!

YouTube and other online resources

- Search for things in the target language. Another chance to learn together – or have lots of fun guessing together. Share info on useful links with others

Radio and television, movies and DVDs

- Explore for target language listening and watching opportunities
- Watch with other families. Share info and resources

Your local Library

Exposure to the language and its culture

- Attend cultural events in Canberra related to the target language
- Look out for local businesses with staff who can speak the target language
- Travel overseas to a country where the target language is spoken