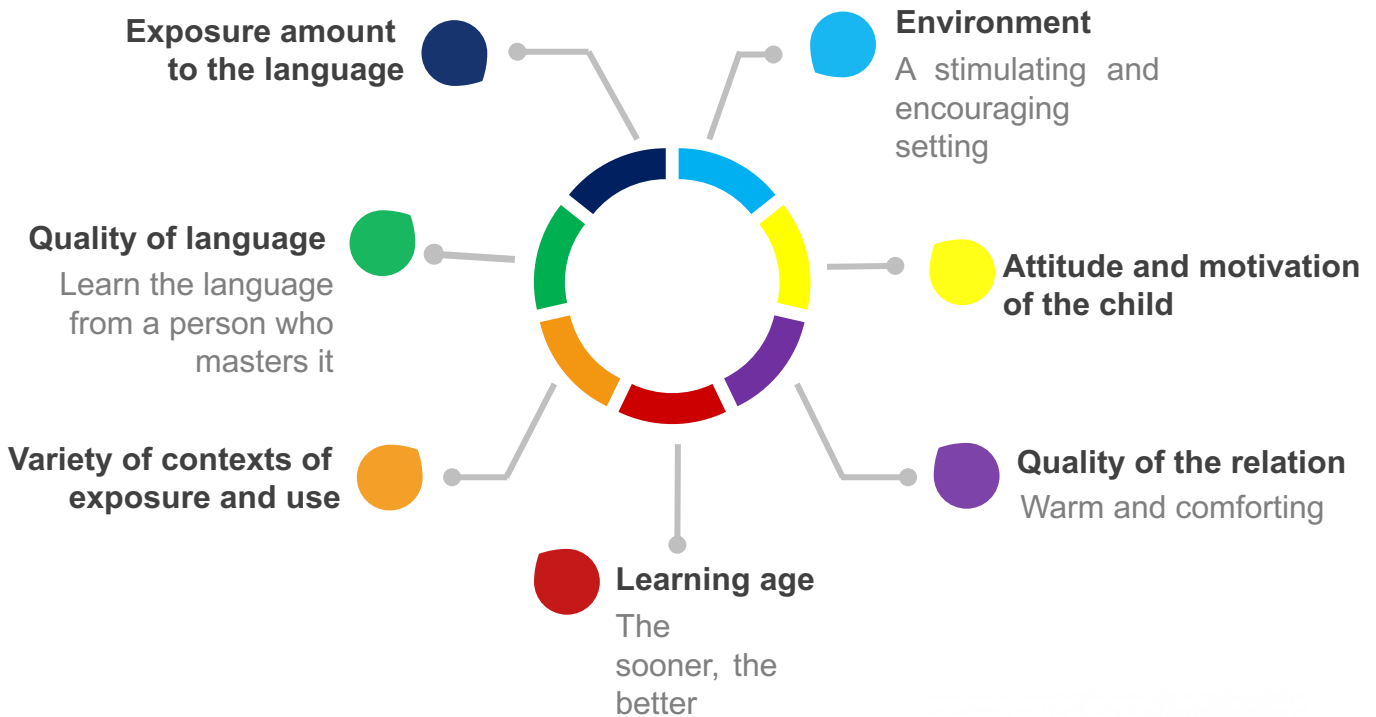


Bilingualism



Information brochure for parents with children in bilingual situation

Variables influencing the situation of bilingualism



Bilingualism and language delay

It is necessary to distinguish :



General delay of language acquisition



Delay of specific language

- If alteration/gap present in both linguistic systems
= **General delay of language**
- If alteration present in only one language (most often the second)
= **Delayed acquisition of language**, which can be explained by a less instrumental disorder, more linked to the learning situation.

Advice for parents



BE CONSISTENT

The child must be exposed to a constant and coherent language model. The ways of proceeding may vary: associating a language with a **person** (a parent, another family member, a close relative, ...), a **place** (kitchen / living room, school / home, etc.) or an **activity** (the meal, washing, ...), etc.

The important thing is to expose the child to frequent, regular and repeated stimulation from each language. To do this, it may be appropriate to establish communication rules with the child.



PROVIDE A CORRECT MODEL OF THE LANGUAGE

Talk to your child in your native language. Studies show that it is decisive that the child learns the language from a person who masters it.



RESPECT THE NATIVE LANGUAGE

Language is not only a communication tool, it is also a symbol that shows that one belongs to a group, and has family and cultural values. Therefore, it is important to maintain exposure to the mother tongue, even if it differs from the language of the country and/or the context of schooling.

In addition, studies show that children are better able to learn a second language when they have a good understanding and production of their mother tongue.



EXPOSE THE CHILD AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO THE LANGUAGE

- Make short and simple statements, appropriate to the level of the child.
- Make gestures and actions associated with statements.
- Repeat, repeat, repeat.
- Emphasize the important elements of your statement, even if it does not seem to be the most natural.
- Talk about what is happening at the same time.
- Expand the words known by the child.



DO NOT INTERROGATE OR TEST KNOWLEDGE

Play and communicate in a playful environment. It is necessary to be consistent in learning while remaining flexible: without having to correct or ask to repeat, to resume its productions in a correct way, by adding information.