

# Why is Honoring a Child's First Language Important?

Here are five research-based reasons to nurture children's home language.

1. Bilingual Brains Are Powerful Brains

Children who use more than one language show stronger memory, focus, problem solving skills.

2. Home Language Builds Secure Identity

Hearing their language helps children feel valued and connected.

3. First Language Helps Second Language Grow

A strong first language boosts English learning over time.

4. Code-Mixing Is a Sign of Learning

Young bilingual children will mix languages—it's normal and shows their brain is working.

5. All Children Benefit from Language Diversity

Multilingual classrooms support empathy, communication, and brain development for *every* child—

You don't have to speak every language—just make space for them. *When you honor children's languages, you honor their whole selves.*