

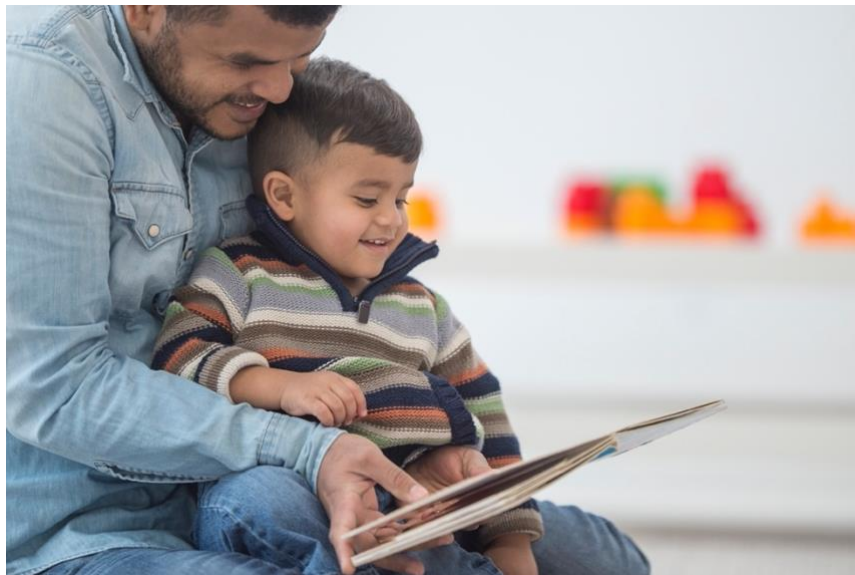
Have you seen my duckling?

Ideas for shared book reading in minority language families

The aim of this inclusive session is to encourage bi/multilingual families to use their home language during shared book reading activities. The session is aimed at families of children aged 0-3. It's never too early to start sharing books with children!

Suggested materials

- A4 picture prompts for use during the information session
- Colouring activity for children
- Set of age appropriate picture books (ideally with little/no text)
- Session plan



Session plan

Introduction & icebreaker

Session Facilitators introduce themselves
Parents and children introduce themselves and share language(s) spoken and their favourite things to do together (children can draw a picture)

Information session

Materials: use picture prompts for delivery and colouring activity to keep the children busy

Raising children bi/multilingually

- More than half of the world's populations are bi/multilingual
- Children raised in bi/multilingual households can naturally learn more than one language
- It's important to use the language that you are most comfortable with when talking to your child so that they hear a good language model

The benefits of book reading

- Reading books to young children (even before they can talk) can help with language development
- This can be difficult if you can't find books in your home language.
- The great news is that it doesn't really matter what kind of book you read to your child if you take an interactive approach

Three tips for sharing books with your child

- Aim for an interactive style – a balance between keeping the story going and incorporating questions and answer conversations between you and your child
- 'talk around the book' – take a pause from the book text and ask you child to say something about the page/book using open ended questions.
- Praise your child for their contribution and add to it.
- Talk beyond the book – do the experiences from the book link to other events or experiences shared between you and your child.

Demonstration

Facilitator models shared book reading tips using first few pages of a picture book

Caregiver-child activity

Pairs choose a book and sit together to share book in their home language

Closing Q&A session

Caregivers encouraged to share their experience of the book reading activity and ask any question to the facilitators/librarians/centre staff.