



BILINGUAL SPEECH CLINIC LLC

FREE PARENT RESOURCE

A PRACTICAL NEXT-STEP GUIDE FOR FAMILIES WHO RECEIVE CONFLICTING
ADVICE ABOUT
THEIR CHILD'S COMMUNICATION.

Your home language is part of your family's connection, culture, and everyday life. You deserve clear explanations before making a big change.

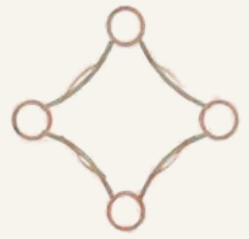
First, know this!

Using two languages does not cause a speech or language disorder. Children with communication difficulties can continue learning and using more than one language.

Parents are encouraged to communicate in the languages they use comfortably and naturally.

A real speech-language concern still deserves attention. The goal is not to ignore a difficulty; it is to understand the child's communication across the languages and settings that matter to them.

Before you change your home language...



Try these steps to turn confusing advice into a clearer conversation.

1. **Ask what the recommendation is based on.**

Was it based on a formal evaluation, classroom observation, or a general concern? Ask for specific examples of what your child finds difficult.

2. **Share your child's full language picture.**

Describe who speaks Spanish and English with your child, when each language is used, and what your child understands or says in each language. Include the family's communication priorities.

3. **Request an explanation of the assessment process.**

Ask how your child's languages, experiences, and cultural background were considered. If a language was not directly assessed, ask what other evidence was gathered and why.

4. **Keep connecting through your strongest language(s).**

Talk, read, sing, play, and tell stories in the language(s) that feel natural to your family while you seek answers.

5. **Seek appropriate follow-up when concerns persist.**

A bilingual or multilingual assessment approach may be needed. A qualified SLP can help determine what additional information or services are appropriate.

Try saying:

“Spanish is important in our family. Can you help me understand the specific concern and how my child’s skills in both languages were considered?”

Five questions to bring to your next conversation!

1. What specific speech or language skills are concerning you?
2. How did you consider my child’s Spanish and English exposure and abilities?
3. Were family interviews, language samples, or interpreter support used when appropriate?
4. What evidence suggests a disorder rather than a difference related to language experience?
5. How can we support communication goals while maintaining our home language?

Remember:

You know your child best! Your observations, experiences, and questions are valuable parts of the process.

Linguistica is here to help you navigate your questions with culturally and linguistically responsive support.

Book a complimentary 15-minute discovery call to learn more about our parent consultations. Link in bio!



Evidence-Based Resources:

American Academy of Pediatrics, & American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2024). Young children learning multiple languages: Parent FAQs. HealthyChildren.org. <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/gradeschool/school/Pages/7-Myths-Facts-Bilingual-Children-Learning-Language.aspx?>

Communication Health Support Association.

Learning more than one language.

<https://helpingyoucommunicate.org/article/learning-more-than-one-language>

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (n.d.). Multilingual service delivery in audiology and speech-language pathology. ASHA Practice Portal. <https://www.asha.org/practice-portal/professional-issues/multilingual-service-delivery/>

Your Notes & Questions ❤️

Your voice matters, and so does your child's language journey!

Use this space to reflect on your child's communication, write down any concerns, and prepare questions for your next conversation with a speech-language pathologist or other professional.
