

Bilingual Program



Why a Bilingual Program?

We believe in a country like India a first step to provide an appropriate education for Culturally and Linguistically diverse children, is to adopt a bilingual or multilingual program. Many children from different backgrounds and it difficult to communicate effectively in English. when they join school. To reject the child's language at school is to reject the

child and this rejection may lead children to participate less actively and confidently in classroom instruction. Also children's mother tongues are fragile and easily lost in the early years of school which in turn affect the children's abilities in the majority school language i.e. English. Research says that the level of development of children's mother tongue is a strong predictor of their second language development. Bilingualism has positive effects on children's linguistic and educational development. When children continue to develop their abilities in two or more languages throughout their early years they gain a deeper understanding of the language and how to use it effectively. They have more practice in processing information in two different languages which may also develop flexibility in their thinking. Children's knowledge and skills transfer across languages i.e. from the mother tongue they have learnt at home to the school language and vice - versa. When the mother tongue is supported in the school, the concepts, language and literacy skills that the children are learning in the majority language i.e English can transfer to the home language. In short, both languages nurture each other when the educational environment permits children access to both languages. Many people now believe that spending instructional time through minority language like Hindi and Gujarati in the school, does not hurt children's academic development/progress in the majority school language i.e English. Hence, for effective communication & better comprehension the interactions and instructions at Anand Balwadi will be communicated in the combination of English, Hindi and Gujarati i.e. during discussions in the project/theme class and for concept clarity in the Math and Language classes if and when required. Stories, Rhymes and communication in different languages will always be encouraged, celebrated and appreciated in the early years.