



MAUNGAWHAU SCHOOL

Bilingualism at Maungawhau School

Shaping the Future

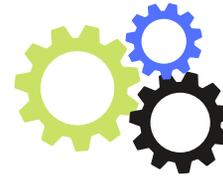


Advantages of Being Bilingual

People who are bilingual...



Are more creative and flexible in their thinking.



Have the ability to analyse language to understand how it works.



Have a greater awareness of the communicative functions of language.



Are able to visually detect hidden patterns more easily.

(LEAP, 2008)

What is Bilingualism?

The term **bilingual** often refers to a person who is fluent in two languages. However there is no universal agreed upon definition for the word as there can be differing degrees of bilingualism. There are four dimensions in a language - listening (understanding), reading, writing and speaking. Bilinguals can have varying proficiency in the different components of the two languages. For example, one can be proficient in all four dimensions in their heritage language, but can only understand in English.

(Colin Baker, 2000)

At Maungawhau School We...

- value diversity and celebrate our multicultural school community.
- foster open communication between home and school to build strong learning partnerships.
- have high expectations of all learners.
- encourage parents and learners to communicate and use their **heritage language** where possible.
- parents and learners share their **cultural capital** with others to develop awareness and sensitivity of other cultures.

"Using your language or languages at home will help your children succeed at school, and in their future work."

-Smith, 2017

Glossary

Bilingualism - *Fluency in two languages*

Multilingualism - *Fluency in more than two languages*

Heritage language - *The language spoken by parents and grandparents*

Cultural capital - *The knowledge, history, values, customs and beliefs that all people possess and bring with them.*

Additional Resources

Community Languages Association of New Zealand (CLANZ) Facebook page

A Parents' and Teacher's Guide to Bilingualism - Colin Baker (2000)

CONTACT US

If you have any questions or require more information.

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How Parents Can Help At Home

- Speak your **heritage language** or languages at home and encourage other family members to do the same.
- Tell your children traditional stories, poems and sayings.
- Tell your children about their culture, history and family.
- Read books together in your heritage language.
- Sing songs together.
- Join community groups and activities.



(Community Languages Association of New Zealand)