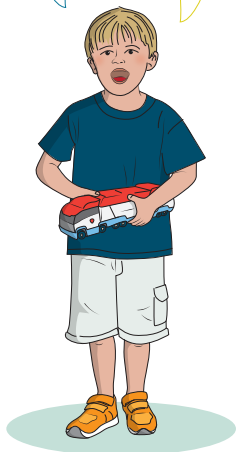


# LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT IN BILINGUAL CHILDREN

Children develop a language because they **need** it to communicate, participate in activities, follow teachings, watch TV...



Language<sub>A</sub> + Language<sub>B</sub>:  
TWO DISTINCT BUT  
INTERACTING SYSTEMS

The **speed** of development of each language depends on:

- The age at which the child is exposed to the language
- The extent of exposure (% of the time)
- The sociolinguistic context  
(social value of the language, opportunities to utilize)



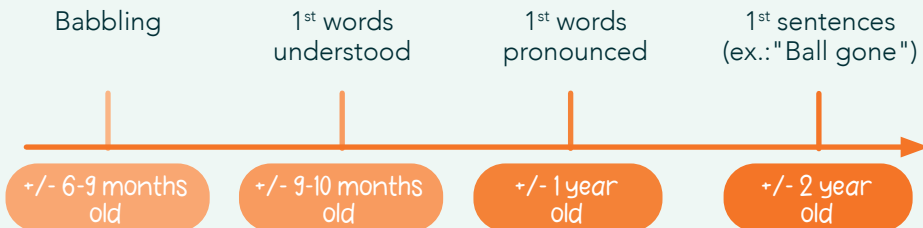
In bilingual children, the development of L<sub>A</sub> or L<sub>B</sub> can be rapid, stagnating or regressing.



## SIMULTANEOUS EARLY BILINGUALISM

( $L_A$  and  $L_B$  approximately before the age of 3)

### STAGES



### VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT

Complementarity principle:



### DEVELOPMENT OF PRONUNCIATION AND SENTENCES

There are **interferences** between the speech sounds of  $L_A$  and  $L_B$ , and between the sentence structures of  $L_A$  and  $L_B$ . This can therefore lead to **errors** that are different from those typically observed in monolingual children. However, by the age of 5-6, the **accuracy** of pronunciation and sentences is similar in bilingual and monolingual children.



## SUCCESSIVE EARLY BILINGUALISM

(L<sub>B</sub> between 4 and 12 years old approximately)



The mastery of L<sub>A</sub> supports the development of L<sub>B</sub>.

Functional level to communicate in L<sub>B</sub>.

After 1-2 years of exposure

Sufficient mastery for **academic learning** in L<sub>B</sub>.

After 4-5 years of exposure

## LATE BILINGUALISM

(L<sub>B</sub> introduced after 12 years old)



Development of L<sub>B</sub> is possible at any age.

Mechanisms for learning a second language as is the case with adults.

## Specific and normal strategies of bilingual language:

- **Code switching:** switching from  $L_A$  to  $L_B$  in the same conversation.
- **Borrowing:** Insertion of a word from  $L_A$  in a conversation in  $L_B$  or vice versa.
- **Code-blending:** Simultaneous mixing of  $L_A$  and  $L_B$  (bilingualism oral language - sign language).

## Developing these strategies:

- **From 3 years old,** voluntary use to make communication effective (see the principle of complementarity).
- **From 8-9 years old,** voluntary use to insist on an element, to show their bilingual skills, etc.



Discuss this with your child's speech therapist

### WARNING SIGNS ?

- Developmental delay in  $L_A$  and  $L_B$
- Difficulty understanding or speaking in  $L_A$  and  $L_B$
- Many typical and atypical errors in  $L_A$  and  $L_B$

### Be aware of false beliefs:

- Bilingualism has **no negative effects** on language development.
- There is **no scientific reason** to avoid bilingualism in children with language difficulties.

Language development in bilingual children - 4.