

1 Ní tharlaíonn sé gan dua

Ní bheidh páistí dhátheangach gan beagán oibre a chur isteach ann. Tá an smaoineamh seo ann go súnn páistí suas teanga agus go bhfoghlaiméoidh siad teanga a chloiseann siad go rialta ach níl seo fior i gcónai. Cinnte, piocfaidh páistí suas teangacha an teaghláigh sna cúinsí cearta ach ní féidir a bheith ag brath air seo go hiomlán.

2 Teastaíonn plean

Chun an seans is fearr a bheith agat chun do chuid páistí a bheith dhátheangach, caithfidh tú pleanáil chun cinn. Cé chomh líofa agus a theastaíonn uait go mbeadh do chuid páistí? Céard faoi léitheoireacht agus scríbhneoireacht? Cé a labhraíonn céard agus cén t-am? Déan plé air seo mar chlann agus aontaigh ar spriocanna.

3 Tá comhsheasmhacht ríthábhachtach

Nuar atá plean agat caithfear a bheith tiomanta dó mar chlann agus comhsheasmhacht a bheith agat in úsáid na teanga. Cinnte, is féidir le páistí a bheith dhátheangach má bhíonn tuismitheoirí ag labhairt dhá theanga leo, ach tá an baol i bhfad níos mó ann go roghnóidh siad an teanga thromlaigh m.sh. Béarla má tá siad úsáideach don tuismitheoir leis an teanga mhionlaigh m.sh. Gaeilge a bheith ag athrú go dtí an teanga thromlaigh an t-am ar fad.

4 Caithfidh tú aird a thabhairt ar an méid ama a mbíonn teagmháil ag páiste le teanga

Nuar atá do phleán agat, caithfidh tú féachaint ar cé mhéad teagmháil a bhíonn ag do pháiste leis an teanga. Tá moladh ginearálta ann (cé nach bhfuil aon fhianaise eolaíoch ann, áfach) gur chóir do pháiste teagmháil a bheith acu le teanga 30% ar a laghad den am a bhfuil siad ina ndúiseach le bheith dátheangach go nádúrtha. Níl anseo ach treoir ghinearálta - is féidir le páistí teanga a phiocadh suas níos moille nó níos tapa ag brath ar an gcineál teagmháil a bhíonn acu leis.

5 Caithfidh tú beagán am breise a chur isteach ann (agus b'fhéidir airgead corr uair)

Caithfidh tú am a fháil chun labhairt leo, chun léamh leo agus chun acmhainní a fháil a chabhróidh leo an teanga a fhoghlaim.

6 Beidh lucht an amhras i gcónai ann

Ní aontóidh gach duine leat gur smaoineamh maith é páistí a thógáil le teangacha an teaghláigh ar fad a bheith acu. Tá siadsan ann a déarfaidh nach bhfuil aon phointe agus nach n-oibreoidh sé. Ceapfaidh daoine eile go bhfuil tú ag cur an iomarca brú ar do pháistí, agus ceapfaidh daoine eile go bhfuil tú ag cur mearbhalla ar pháistí le teanga breise. Ná tabhair aon aird orthu seo mar níl seo fior

7 Ná tabhair aird ar droch chomhairle

D'fhéadfadh go mbeadh amanna ann nuair a deireann gairmí leat stopadh ag labhairt teanga ar leith le do pháistí. Má tá aon cheist ann maidir le forbairt teanga do pháiste - labhair le speisialtóir a bhfuil taithí acu ag déileáil le páistí dhátheangacha.

8 Níl sé éasca i gcónai

Tiocfaidh dúshláin éagsúla chun cinn agus tú ag dul i dtreo an dátheangachas le do chlann. An mbeidh tú in ann dul ar aghaidh le do phleán má tharlaíonn rudaí gan choinne, má thagann athrú ar chúrsáil clainne, má athraíonn tú post agus mar sin de? Nuair a thagann dúshláin chun cinn, iarr comhairle agus cúnamh.

9 Nuair a fhreagraíonn do pháiste thí sa teanga "mícheart"

Is do thuismitheoir an teanga mhionlaigh a tharlaíonn sé seo de ghnáth. Airíonn tú go bhfuil gach rud déanta ceart agat agus go raibh tú comhsheasmhach agus fós féin tiocfaidh siad abhaile ón scoil lá amháin agus ní fhreagróidh siad thí i do theanga níos mó. Tá sé tábhachtach gan tabhairt suas ag an bpóinte seo agus leanúint ar aghaidh mar a bhí tú agus b'fhéidir méadú a chur an am a mbíonn an teanga in úsáid agaibh.

10 Beidh réimse buntáistí ann do pháistí atá dhátheangach

Mura bhfuil tú fós cinnte faoi do pháistí a thógáil suas go dátheangach, léigh suas ar na buntáistí ar fad atá

ann má chinneann tú seo a dhéanamh. Táimid ar fad ag iarráidh an rud is fearr dá bpáistí agus cén fáth nach dtacódh tú leo a bheith dhátheangach? Méadaíonn sé seo an réimse poist gur féidir leo a bheith acu amach anseo chomh maith le réimsí eile cosúil le ceol, litearthacht agus cultúr.

11 Ní bheidh aiféala ort go brách faoi

Ní bheidh aiféala go brách ort faoi chinneadh a dhéanamh an Ghaeilge a thabhairt do pháistí. Ar an lámh eile, is minic a chloiseann tú tuismitheoirí ag rá go raibh aiféala orthu nár thóg siad a gclann le Gaeilge, gan trácht ar an méid daoine fásá a léiríonn díomá nár fhoghlaim siad an teanga nuair a bhí siad óg.

12 Beidh tú bródúil

Beidh tú thar a bheith bródúil an chéad uair a n-aireoidh tú do pháistí ag labhairt i nGaeilge le daoine eile. Ní amháin go mbeidh tú féin bródúil ach beidh an chuid eile den chlann bródúil chomh maith, cosúil le Mamó agus Daideo. Beidh tú i do shampaiontach do theaghláigh eile ar mhaith leo an rud céanna a dhéanamh.

Teil.: 091 595337

Ríomhphost: eolas@cnng.ie
www.comharnaionrai.ie



Údarás na Gaeltachta



Comhar Naónraí
na Gaeltachta Teoranta

12 Things Parents of Bilingual Children Need to Know



1 It doesn't happen by magic

Children do not become bilingual "by magic". There is a persistent myth claiming that "children are like sponges when it comes to language" and that they will learn all languages they hear regularly – this is simply not true. Yes, in the right circumstances children will naturally grow up to acquire the family languages, but this cannot be taken for granted.

2 You need a plan

To be in with the best chance of succeeding in bringing up bilingual children, you need to plan ahead. How fluent do you want your children to be? What about reading and writing? Who speaks what and when? Discuss this in the family and agree on the goals.

3 Consistency is crucial

Once you have your plan, you need to commit to it as a family and stay consistent in your language use. Yes, children can certainly become bilingual if parents mix their languages with them, but the risk that they will at some point prefer to stick to the majority language is far greater if they have become used to the minority language parent easily switching to the majority language.

4 You will have to pay attention to exposure times

Once you have your plan, you need to look into how much exposure your children get to each language.

There is a general recommendation (there is, however, no scientific proof for this) that children should be exposed to a language at least thirty percent of their waking time to naturally become bilingual. This should however only be taken as a guidance – depending on the type of exposure, children might need more or less time to acquire a language.

5 You will have to invest some extra time (and sometimes maybe a bit of money)

You will need to find the time talk a lot, to do the reading and to find resources to help your children learn the language.

6 There will be doubters

Not everyone will agree with you that it is a good idea to raise your children to speak all family languages. There will be those who tell you that there is no point, that it is not going to work. Others will think that you are expecting too much of your children, and some will say that you are confusing your children with all these languages. Ignore these doubters, but also, forgive them, as they do not know what they are talking about.

7 Don't listen to bad advice

There might be times when a professional tells you to stop speaking a certain language to your children. If in doubt with regards to your child's

language development – speak to a specialist who is experienced in dealing with bilingual children.

8 It is not always easy

There will be all sorts of challenges along your family's multilingual journey – apart from the doubters and the ill-informed "experts" there will be more mundane obstacles: will you be able to stick to your plan when "life happens" and offers its surprises in form of changed family circumstances, moves, career progressions, influence from others and so on? When it feels difficult, ask for advice and help.

9 Your child might answer you in the "wrong" language

This one usually hits the minority language parent. You feel that you have done everything right and stayed consistent, and still your darling comes home from school one day and no longer answers you in your language. You will feel disappointed and disheartened if it this happens, but it is crucial that you don't give up at this point, and that you continue to stay consistent and if possible, also increase the exposure time.

10 Your children will gain an array of benefits by becoming bilingual

If you are still in doubt about whether to bring up your children to become bilinguals or not, read about all the great benefits your children will gain if you do decide

to do it. We all want what is best for our children, so why wouldn't you support yours to have the wonderful gift of speaking more than one language?

11 You will never regret it

I can assure you, you will not regret your decision to stick with it and make sure that your children grow up to speak all the family languages. On the other hand, I have heard several parents who are sad that they gave up on passing on their languages – not to mention the many adults expressing their disappointment that they were not taught a language their mother or father knew when they were small.

12 You will be proud

You will be immensely proud when your children for the first time speak to their grandparents or other relatives in "their" language. I can assure you that the feeling is absolutely wonderful. Not only will you be proud, so will your children and the rest of your family. You will also be a great role model to other families.

Tel.: 091 595337

Email: eolas@cnng.ie
www.comharnaionrai.ie



Údarás na Gaeltachta



12 Rud a theastaíonn ó thuismitheoirí le páistí dhátheangacha a bheith ar an eolas fúthu

