

# -playing with your Child

Dress up

Model good talking and listening

Model play

Talk, talk, talk and exaggerate your expressions

Use songs and rhymes

Make everyday activities into games

Copy their play

Play 'baby games' like 'peek a boo' Use you imagination, you don't need toys

### Playing with your child

Look at your baby, make noises, exaggerate your expressions, babble, chatter (it doesn't have to make sense!), sing, let your child babble back, show them how to listen.

Model play. Get down to your child's level and play face to face.

You don't need toys, just your imagination! Play with real cups and pans, cardboard boxes, dressing up etc.

Your child will love to copy what you do and what you say, so be careful!

Make everyday activities into games, have fun e.g., sorting the washing, making tea, washing up, cleaning the car, dusting etc.

Copy what your children do - let them lead the play.

Songs and rhymes are great for encouraging fun communication e.g., using the 'Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush' tune to sing something that you are doing for example 'Here We Go Up the Stairs to Bed'.

Play games like 'Peek-a-Boo', 'Round and Round the Garden', 'This is the way the ladies ride', clapping hands, anything that has physical element to it.

For further information visit www.narrowingthegap.org

#### **Ethnic Minority Achievement**

Quick tips for teaching staff working with pupils who are learning English as an additional language (EAL).

Bilingualism is a great advantage. Bilingual pupils with good literacy development in both languages score better on IQ tests than monolingual children. It may take up to 7 years to develop proficiency in academic language. Be patient!

Support first languages and English through dual language books, tapes, CDs and educational software in the pupils' first languages. Use bilingual dictionaries for older pupils who are literate in their first language. EAL pupils need cognitive challenges - just because English isn't their first language doesn't mean they are not intelligent!

Please encourage parents to continue to speak to their child in their first language at home.

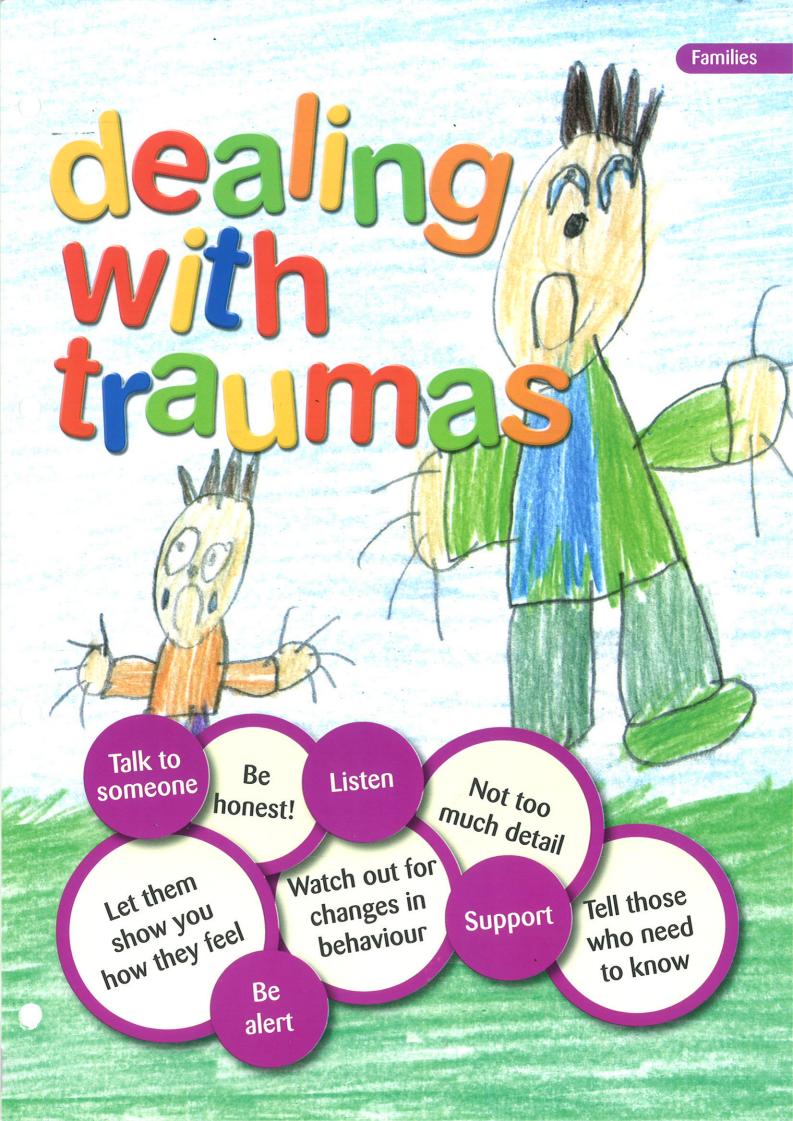
Have signs written in pupils' first languages as well as English. An EAL pupil might be quiet for up to a year once they have arrived in school in the UK.

Don't worry this is called a silent period and is normal.

Use visuals
(pictures, objects etc.) to
help EAL pupils connect
meaning to language. Use
gestures, actions,
expressions and inflection to
support understanding in
English.

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#### Dealing with traumas

Death, loss and separation have a profound effect on children. It is useful to share events with others who have contact with your child so they can help or be alert to changes in behaviour.

Your child may need help in managing changes or coping with challenges, be aware of how it must feel for them, there are people out there who can help.

Be honest with your child without too much detail and let them see you are dealing with things and they are not responsible for what is happening.

Trying to keep in contact with people that are separated may be very important, even when things are difficult.

There are agencies and contacts out there who could help you with this.

Don't assume your child is ok. Your child may not be able to say how they feel but you may see changes in behaviour.

their emotions and let
them know it's ok to feel this
way. Let them know how you are
feeling but without burdening them.

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## stresses and strains

Don't panic

Look after yourself

Kids hear and see everything Talk to

someone

Listen

Think it through

Take a step back

We all

Seek

need help sometimes



#### Stresses and strains

Parenting is the hardest job in the world!

There is no such thing as a perfect
child and you will be doing your best.

There are ways to help you be more
effective.

What goes on in the family will have a massive impact on your child, your child may need help in managing changes or coping with challenges, be aware of how it must feel for them.



Be honest with your child without too much detail and let them see you are sorting things out and they are not responsible for what is happening.

Look after yourself and your partner and relationships with others.

Model what a good relationship looks like, children learn from what they see and experience.

Falling out with a partner is normal and it is good for your child to see you tackle disagreements and find solutions. It's damaging to have physical or aggressive arguments in front of them.

Look after yourself and your partner. If you are having difficulties find someone to help. There are people and agencies out there who can provide support — and we all need help sometimes!

Keeping contacts with members of the family is important, even when things are difficult. There are agencies and contacts out there who could help you with this.