



## Ways parents can support students whose first language is not English at home

### **Your home language is an asset**

Children who can speak another language can also learn English better because they see when the words are similar (or have a similar meaning). They can also use what they know about grammar in their first language to help them work out English grammar.

#### How can I support my child in first language learning?

- Singing songs, telling stories and sharing books in your first language
- Telling jokes, learning rhymes
- Watching TV or DVDs and talking about them
- Talking together at meal times e.g. What did you do or learn at school today?
- Buying or borrowing from the local library bilingual books for you and your child to read.

### **Audio stories provide a good model “book” of English**

Listening to stories together in English helps both the parent and child listen to a clear model of English.

Here are two great websites to try out!

Storyline online <http://www.storylineonline.net/>

Provides audio and video stories accompanied by distinguished narrators reading out loud. Some also include English sub titles.

MeeGenius <http://www.meegenius.com/store/books/free/>

Interesting audio stories read out loud. It also highlights the English words as the narrator reads the book.