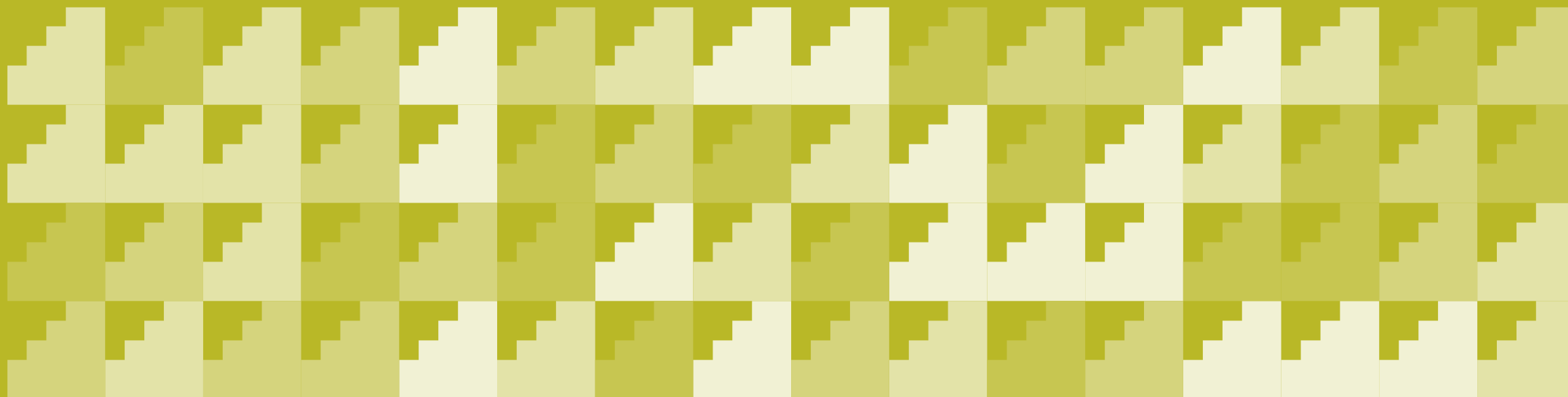


# Professionals:

Some prompts and key messages for you to share with multilingual families



Explain what the term multilingualism means. Multilingualism is the ability to speak more than one language.

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## Key messages for families:

### **Promoting the benefits of speaking more than one language**

- It can help your child to learn and remember things more easily.
  - It means you can speak to more people.
  - It helps children to develop their personality and understand their home culture.
  - Learning one language well, can help your child learn other languages.
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## Key messages for families:

### **How to support language development**

- Parents should talk to their child in the language that they are most confident in.
  - When a child starts to learn a new language, they can sometimes be a bit quieter than expected in that language – this is typical and nothing to worry about.
  - Children may mix up the languages they are learning. This is also typical and is nothing to worry about.
  - It is important to make sure that a child develops language skills in all of their languages. Talking to children all the time about everyday things, particularly things they are interested in, is a really good way to do this.
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- Professionals may use interpreters so they can understand the detail of what families want to tell them. This means that parents can say things in their own words, without worrying about knowing the English words.
  - The interpreters used must understand and respect confidentiality. This mean that they won't tell other people if families share something private.
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