

## RAISING BILINGUAL CHILDREN

Deciding to bring up your children bilingually is an important decision, a decision that will affect the rest of their lives and your lives as parents or carers. There are many advantages to being able to speak two languages. Your children will be able to enjoy two cultures. They will also be able to bridge between generations, by speaking the same language as grandparents or extended family.

### But I can't speak Welsh

There are lots of ways you can introduce the language to your child from a very young age, even if you don't speak the language yourself. If you have a Welsh speaking partner, family members or friends, you can encourage them to always speak Welsh with your child. Certainly mamgu and tadcu, or, taid and nain, can be a powerful influence! By speaking Welsh with your children they will establish a close relationship in a language that belongs to your family.

### Childcare Choices

There are Welsh speaking **childminders** available and these can play an important role in your child's language development. You and your child can join a local **Cylch Ti a Fi** (parent and child group). This can be an opportunity for you to socialise and make new friends while your child can play and learn nursery rhymes in Welsh - there's no need for you to speak Welsh! As your child grows there is the opportunity to attend first a Welsh medium playgroup – **Cylch Meithrin** and then of course move into Welsh medium or bilingual education, which also provides out of school clubs.

### Other sources of help

You can also introduce some non-school based Welsh language activities into your home. For example:

Watch Welsh language TV programmes with your child. Many popular children's

programmes and drama series on S4C have English subtitles.

Get hold of some of the excellent children's books, videos and cassettes which are now available – contact your local library for advice.

### Reading with your child

There is no reason why you both can't enjoy books in both English and Welsh. Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin organise a scheme called Cynllun Cymraeg I'r Teulu (Welsh for the Family) which helps parents who don't speak Welsh to be able to read some Welsh books to their children.

### For further information:

Menter Iaith Tel: 01443 820 913

Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin Tel: 02920 739200

Twf Project Tel: 01239 711668