



KIDCARE CANADA

nurturing the best possible start

Video Specific Discussion Questions



Born to Communicate - Chapter Four

Babies can Manage More than One Language

Categories of questions:



Short answer questions (help participants to warm up and connect to their previous learning)

- *Is it common for families to have more than one language in their background?*
- *Can babies tell the difference between languages?*
- *Do different languages have different patterns that can be recognized even by those who don't speak them?*
- *Can young children learn more than one language?*
- *Is it easier to learn a second language when you are young?*

APPLICATION

Personal experience questions (help participants apply what they have learned – make it personally relevant and meaningful)

- *Do you personally wish you knew more languages than you know?*
- *Describe your relationship with a multi-lingual child. Do they “know” to speak a particular language to particular people?*
- *If you speak more than one language, have you had conversations where you switch back and forth? Can you describe this experience?*
- *Have you seen families where the parents speak to their baby only in their first language and not in the language of their chosen community? How did this work out for the child?*

REFLECTION

Open-ended questions (help participants reflect and move towards deeper learning)

- *Do you know families where children cannot speak to the grandparents without an interpreter? What do you think about this, and why?*
- *Do you know families where very young children cannot speak the languages of their neighbours? What do you think about this, and why?*
- *In some families the only way for their baby to learn the heritage language is to focus on it before they learn the dominant language. What do you think of this?*
- *A very young multi-lingual child might split the number of known words over two or more languages, while a very young child who speaks only one language might know the same number of words – but all in one language. How might this impact later language acquisition?*
- *Communication with babies is important whether in one language or many. How can you encourage this?*

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DISCLAIMER

The content of KidCareCanada videos is informed by current research and shared by experts in the field. It should not be used for diagnosing or treating, and is NOT a substitute for professional care.