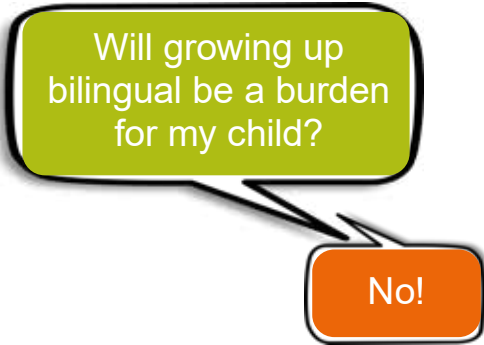


THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BILINGUALISM FOR CHILDREN



- Children who grow up bilingual ...
- develop a strong language awareness.
 - can adapt quickly to new situations.
 - find it easier to learn other languages.
 - are generally more open to other languages and cultures.



- Children who grow up bilingual ...
- develop in a similar way to children growing up monolingual.
 - learn languages at a similar pace to children who grow up monolingual.

For information on the wide range of offers for families with small children in the in city of Schaffhausen, visit the Office of Early Childhood (Fachstelle Frühe Kindheit) website at www.fk-stsh.ch



STADT-SCHAFFHAUSEN.CH

Stadt Schaffhausen
Fachstelle Frühe Kindheit
Postfach 1000
CH-8201 Schaffhausen
info@fk-stsh.ch
052 632 53 51



English

STADT-SCHAFFHAUSEN.CH

GROWING UP BILINGUAL



for families



GROWING UP BILINGUAL

Your child is growing up with multiple languages, and is able to benefit greatly from this both linguistically and culturally. This is why helping your child to explore the different languages is a wonderful gift. In the city of Schaffhausen, almost half of children below the age of four come into contact with two or more languages at home. Being multilingual is enriching.

This flyer contains valuable information for you on how to approach multilingualism and the German language – both the Swiss German and High German forms. Choose the tips that are helpful for you and suitable for your family. We hope you enjoy trying them out!

THE VALUE OF LANGUAGES

Do you talk to your child about the importance of your family language(s) and the German language?

Show your child the importance of languages!

- Your family language(s) and the German language are important. A positive approach will help your child to enjoy learning languages.
- Show an interest in and be open to the German language. This will help nurture your child's curiosity.

Highlight the value of multilingualism

Show an interest in all languages



PREFERRED LANGUAGE AND GROWING UP MULTILINGUAL



Do you talk to your child in your preferred language (Herzenssprache)?

Trust your instincts!

- Talk to your child in your strongest language – usually your preferred language (Herzenssprache). This will allow your child to acquire a large vocabulary, and will also help them when it comes to learning other languages.
- You feel safe and comfortable in your preferred language (Herzenssprache). It is the language in which you can best express your thoughts and feelings.
- Each parent can talk to their child in their own preferred language (Herzenssprache), and this will enable you to pass on emotional and cultural values to your child.

Do you also speak Swiss German or High German?

Support your child – speak German to them!

- Alongside their preferred language (Herzenssprache), the German language is also important for your child. And this is where your own German skills come in.
- Make use of appropriate moments during the day to speak German to your child. This will enable them to learn German before starting kindergarten (Kindergarten), which is very important nowadays.
- Your child's German skills will help them to make the best possible start in kindergarten (Kindergarten), and support their development.

While shopping with your child

While reading a book with your child

On the playground

While playing

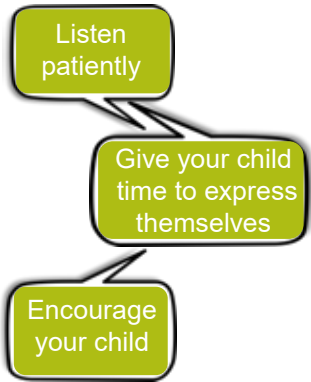
While baking

Do you speak more than one language?

Use your own language skills!

- You don't have to speak the same language all the time: switch languages according to the situation or location, and use them as naturally as possible in everyday life.

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT



Does your child mix the different languages?

Encourage your child to speak all of the languages!

- It's okay for them to mix languages, and is normal in the beginning. It doesn't mean your child will confuse the different languages. On the contrary – it shows that they have already learned a lot.
- Your child may use one language more often than the other(s). This is completely fine. You as a parent should continue to enjoy speaking your preferred language (Herzenssprache) on a regular basis. Your child will benefit from hearing the words.

Does your child regularly spend time with other children?

Explore the world with your child!

- Your child will find friends out and about at the playground or in the neighbourhood, hearing and speaking German as they play. The earlier your child comes into contact with the German language, the easier it will be for them to learn it.
- Your child will come into contact with other children at a parent and baby group (Krabbelgruppe), children's gymnastics class (Kinderturnen) or playgroup (Spielgruppe). This will help to improve their German skills on an ongoing basis.

Meet with neighbouring families

Make contact with professionals

Do you talk to other parents and professionals about these issues?

Join the conversation!

- Visit parent's evenings (Elternabende) at your child's playgroup (Spielgruppe)/daycare centre (Kindertagesstätte), or events for families with children. Here you will meet other (multilingual) families and have the chance to chat with them about their experiences.
- Make connections in your neighbourhood.
- Talk openly with professionals or other parents about your child's language skills.

Visit a playground

Visit a playgroup (Spielgruppe)

Visit a library