

English

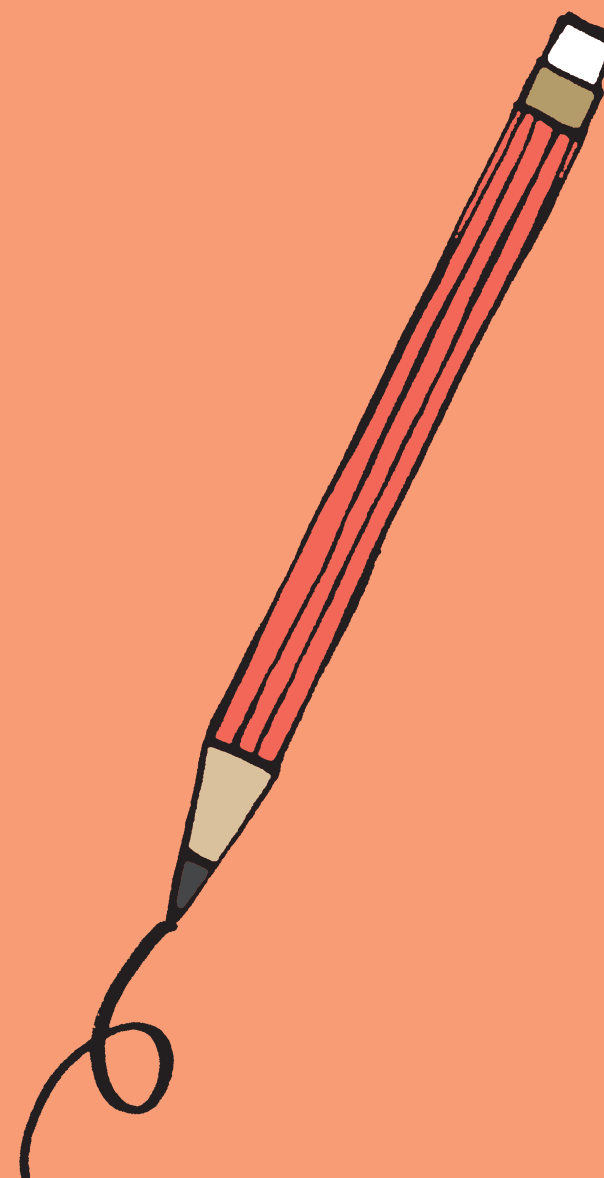
英語

Beginner's Guide to Mother Tongue Language Learning

A Guidebook for Foreign Parents Dealing
with Language Issues for their Child

はじめよう！母語学習

子どもたちの言葉で悩んでいる外国人保護者の皆さんへ



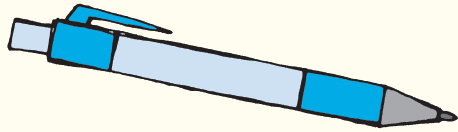


For a child, their mother tongue language is part of their roots. ≡

A mother tongue language is the first language that a child learns, and it is the language that the child is best able to identify in. As the child begins learning Japanese at school, their mother tongue language eventually shifts to becoming the “language of their parents” (heritage language). Here, we will refer to the “heritage language” for children with foreign roots, as the “mother tongue language.”

How the mother tongue language can empower a child. ≡

It is very important for children with foreign backgrounds to be given the chance to grow their mother tongue language ability. Doing so allows such children to improve their academic performance, as well as their Japanese language proficiency. It also allows them to gain self-confidence, and gives them important skills to enable them to lead fulfilling lives in society.



5 reasons that it is recommended that the child should be able to speak their mother tongue language. ≡

1

It provides them with skills that can transfer to their Japanese language learning and school work

It is said that by mastering their mother tongue, children are able to achieve better overall academic performance and attain Japanese proficiency as well. More specifically, if the child is able to acquire a solid foundation in their mother tongue, before they enter elementary school, they will be able to better understand what is being taught when they enter schools in Japan (see Column 1).

2

Communication between parent and child will become more fulfilling

Parents and children communicate on a variety of things, such as on topics related to daily life, as well as sharing future goals. In order to allow for the smooth communication of feelings and thoughts, it is vital that the child is able to share this common language.

3

The child will be able to gain self-confidence

By learning their mother tongue language, the child can also better learn about their culture and religion tied to their roots. This will enable the child to better understand their parents' feelings, and will provide the child with increased self-esteem.

4

The ability to establish relations with other mother tongue language speakers

The child will be able to forge bonds with their relatives in their home country, as well as other people around the world that speak the same language. This will also provide the child with the opportunity to excel in careers that require understanding of the two languages and cultures.

5

Future career options will be more plentiful

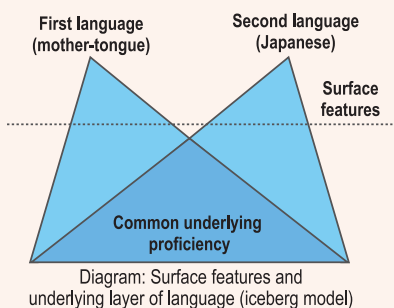
In the future, the child will have the potential to utilize their abilities in fields such as business, inter-cultural cooperation and exchange, not only in Japan, but in their home country as well. This will broaden the possibilities for their future, and they will potentially be able to contribute to the enrichment of society as a whole.



However, if efforts are not made to help the child learn, even their speaking ability of their mother tongue language may fade away!

Column 1 Mother tongue learning improves academic performance!

“By learning their mother tongue language, children build their foundation of academic vocabulary.” This theory was established by Dr. Jim Cummins, who resides in Canada, a nation known for its immigration policy and multiculturalism. As shown in the diagram, language can be conceptualized as having external components, as well as an internal component, and individuals with 2 languages possess a common conceptual base that they use for cognitive understanding. Because of this, it is said that strengthening one's mother tongue language ability will also lead to improvements in their Japanese proficiency (based on the Interdependence Hypothesis). For example, if a child is able to understand the concept of “photo-synthesis” in their mother tongue, it will more easily allow the child to understand the same concept in Japanese as well.



母語とは、子どもたちのルーツの言葉です。 ≡

母語とは一番初めに覚え、しっかりと一体感を持てる言葉です。そうした母語に対して、学校で、日本語を始めると、母語は「親の言葉」（継承語）へと変わっていきます。ここでは「継承語」を含め外国につながる子どもたちのルーツの言葉を「母語」と呼びます。

母語が引き出す子どもたちのチカラ。 ≡

外国につながる子どもたちの母語を育てることはとても大切なことです。子どもたちの勉強の力、日本語の力を伸ばします。また、本人に自信を与え、社会で生きる力が身につきます。

「母語が話せたほうがいいよ！」と言われる5つの理由。 ≡

1

日本語の学習や学校の勉強に役立ちます

母語をマスターすることで、学校の勉強や日本語もできるようになるといわれています。とくに小学校入学前に母語がしっかり身に付いていれば、日本の学校に来ても授業の内容がわかりやすくなります。(コラム1を参照)

2

親子のコミュニケーションが豊かになります

親子の間では毎日の生活から進路の選択など様々なことが話合われています。気持ちや考えを伝えあうためにも、共通の言語は子どもたちにとってなくてはならないものです。

3

自分に自信が持てるようになります

母語を学ぶことで自分のルーツにつながる文化・宗教と出会うことができます。それにより親の気持ちがわかり、自分に誇りをもてるようになります。

4

同じ母語を話す人たちとの交友関係が広がります

ルーツの国に暮らす親戚や世界中の同じ言葉を使う人々とつながりを持つことができます。将来、二つの言語・文化を結ぶ人材に成長できます。

5

将来の進路を考えると、選択肢が増えます

将来は日本だけでなく、ルーツの国とのビジネスや協力・交流などの場で能力を発揮できます。将来の可能性が広がり、豊かな社会づくりに貢献できます。



しかし、学ぶ努力をしなければ、今話せている母語さえも消えていくのです！

コラム1 母語を学ぶと勉強もできるようになる！

「母語を学ぶことで学習言語の力がしっかりする。」—このことを説明したのは移民大国のカナダの研究者カミンズです。まず言語には図のように表で見える部分と、心の奥があり、心の奥の学習思考の元となる概念は2つの言語で共有されています。だから、母語を豊かにすることで日本語能力が高まると説明されています(言語相互依存仮説)。例えば、「光合成」などの単語を母語で理解できると、日本語での概念把握もできるようになります。

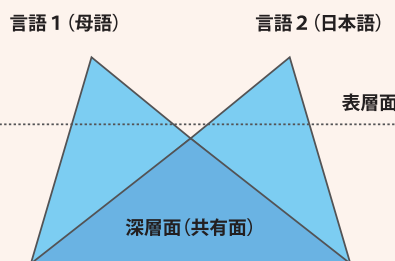


図:言語の表層面と深層面(冰山説)

5 ways to nurture the mother tongue language at home

① Reading books to a child in their mother tongue language

It is extremely effective to read to a child, using such things as children's books written in their mother tongue language, starting at a very young age. Parents can start by reading to their child for 10 minutes a day, in order to help foster their child's mother tongue language ability.

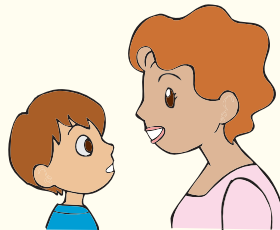
Reference: Website for downloading mother tongue language children's books <http://www.hyogo-ip.or.jp/mtss/bogo/>



② Things parents can do in daily life

Even if your child responds to you in Japanese, try to create various opportunities where you speak to your child in their mother tongue language.

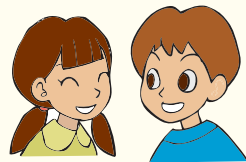
One idea may be to place a calendar, in plan view, that features costumes, cooking utensils, food, and religious celebrations that are tied to your home culture. Such objects and photographs can help encourage discussion.



③ Become friends with other mother tongue language speakers

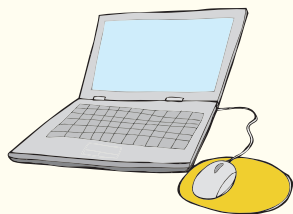
Another idea may be to go to Japanese language classrooms, religious gatherings, and work related gatherings for parents, and to allow your child to play with other children who speak the same language.

By making friends with others who speak the same language, and share the same experiences, your child will not only improve their language skills, but can also grow as a person.



④ Using videos on the Internet and on DVDs

By showing your child age-appropriate videos and programming in their mother tongue language, such as those found on YouTube and on DVDs, you can help your child improve in their mother tongue language.



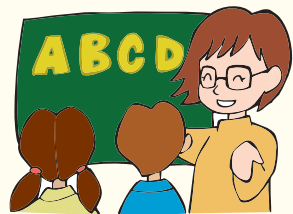
⑤ Using mother tongue language classrooms

If mother tongue language classrooms are available in your area, by all means, get your child to participate in them.

If such classrooms don't exist, try to find friends to start your own mother tongue language classroom. By participating in mother tongue language classrooms, parents can take an active role in checking their child's homework given in their mother tongue language class.

Such opportunities allow the family to engage in discussions on what the child is learning in the classroom.

Making the child's mother tongue language learning a focus of the family will have positive effects.



Column 2 Age of arrival in Japan and mother tongue language ability

In order to promote mother tongue language learning, it is also vital to take into account the child's developmental stage as well. Here, we will provide a general overview of mother tongue language ability in relation to age of arrival in Japan.

Arrived in Japan at 0 to 8 years of age

Such children are often able to develop Japanese proficiency that is adequate for everyday situations, but will require time to build their academic vocabulary. If no efforts are made, such children often lose their mother tongue language ability. On the other hand, by fostering their mother tongue language ability, it is possible to improve their growth in Japanese proficiency and academic vocabulary.

Arrived in Japan at 9 to 13 years of age

Although such children often require more time to achieve Japanese proficiency required in everyday situations, by further growing their mother tongue language ability, they are able to better understand abstract concepts, helping them to deepen understanding in their studies in Japanese language contexts.

Arrived in Japan at 14 years of age or older

It is often not difficult to maintain and further improve such children's mother tongue language ability. Japanese language acquisition will require more time.

Second or third generation

Such individuals may be able to more easily learn their heritage language as a second language, provided they developed strong listening comprehension skills by growing up in a home environment where they were exposed to their parents or grandparents speaking the mother tongue language.

家庭で母語を育てる5つの工夫

① 母語で書かれた本の読み聞かせ

幼いころからの母語の絵本の読み聞かせはとても有効です。1日10分でもいいのでお子さんに読み聞かせ、母語を育てる時間を持てるといいですね。

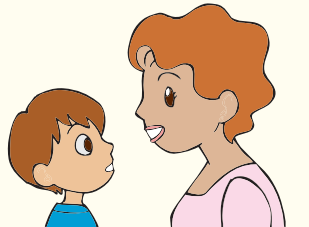
参考：母語絵本ダウンロードサイト <http://www.hyogo-ip.or.jp/mtss/bogo/>



② 毎日の生活の中でできること

たとえ日本語で返事が返ってきても、いろいろな機会をとらえてお子さんに母語で話しかけてみてください。

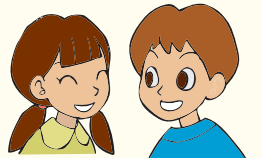
母語の背景となる文化につながる衣装、料理道具、食べ物の写真、宗教行事などを掲載したカレンダーなど身の回りに置いてみてはどうでしょう。物や写真を使っても会話は弾みます。



③ 同じ母語を語る仲間を作る

日本語教室や教会・職場など親同士のつながりで、同じ言葉をしゃべる友達と遊ばせてはどうでしょう？

同じ言葉と意思を持つ仲間を持つことは、言葉を学ぶためにも本人の成長のためにも良いことです。



④ インターネットやDVDの動画を活用

YouTubeやDVDなど、母語がつかわれている子ども向けの動画・番組を子どもたちに見せることでも母語は身に付きます。

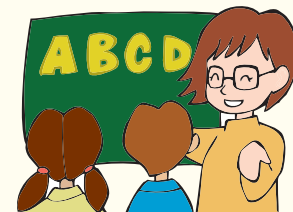


⑤ 母語教室を活用する

地域に母語教室があれば、ぜひお子さんを参加させてください。もしなかったら仲間に呼びかけ、母語教室を始めてみてはどうでしょう？

母語教室にお子さんが参加したら、母語教室で出された宿題を親が見てあげることができます。

これによって母語教室で勉強したことが家族の話題になるのです。お子さんの母語学習を家族の関心事にできたらいいですね。



コラム2 渡日の時期と母語の習得との関係

0～8歳ころ渡日

日本語の生活言語の習得は早い学習言語を獲得するには時間がかかる。何もしなければ母語を失うのも早い。逆に母語をはぐむことで日本語の学習言語の伸びも期待できる。

9歳～13歳ころ渡日

日本語の生活言語の習得にやや時間がかかるが、母語を育成すれば、母語力の助けを借りて抽象概念を理解することができ、それによって日本語による学習の理解も深まる

14歳以上で渡日

自国で習得した母語を維持し伸長させるのはむづかしくない。日本語の習得に時間がかかる。

2～3世

両親や祖父母が母語を話しているのをよく聞いていれば、聞く力がついており、努力して学習することで第二言語として習得しやすいことが多い。

母語を学習するには言語の発達段階も考慮する必要があります。参考までに渡日した時期による母語の状況を見てみましょう。

Ways to nurture the mother tongue language at school

1

Let the school know that the mother tongue language and culture are important

Make it known to your child's school that your mother tongue language is important not only to you but your child as well.
Furthermore, strive to create an environment at school where your child can confidently speak in their mother tongue language and share about the culture of heritage.
For example, some schools have made efforts by providing multilingual signs for the school office, bathrooms, gym, etc., and make announcements in the mother tongue language of students at school events such as sports/field day.
Moreover, some schools even serve lunches featuring dishes from students' home countries.

2

Get actively involved in school matters

Make an effort to actively participate in school events, even if you are unable to speak the language.
Let teachers know that they should "speak frankly when communicating to you as a parent."
Teachers also hope to provide your child with the most fulfilling school life possible.
For teachers, communication with parents like you provides them with invaluable insight to better improve their teaching.

3

Make use of organizations serving children with foreign backgrounds and other volunteer organizations located in your area

You can find intercultural exchange and volunteer organizations located in your community. Such organizations provide a variety of services, including help with school work, Japanese language learning support, mother tongue language learning support, and out-of-school activities.
Try to create connections with such organizations, for both issues at school and at home, and reach out to them for support when needed.
Such efforts will help create a better learning environment for all children with foreign backgrounds.

Column 3 Information for school teachers

Everyday Japanese language ability is something that all children are able to acquire through classroom interactions.
However, if a child's language of cognition, which is required for learning, is allowed to stagnate, this ability will be lost entirely or will end up under-developed, causing the child to fall behind in their studies. If this is not prevented, it will severely limit the child's future options in career and life.
All children, regardless of their developmental stage, require teaching that gives them opportunities to consciously make use of their cognitive abilities.
If the child is unable to develop age-appropriate cognitive abilities, this will require teachers to adapt content area instruction to meet the current developmental level of that child. Content area instruction that is developmentally appropriate for a child will encourage her to feel that she "understands," is "capable," and that she "wants to know more," leading to improved motivation to learn.

Classroom instruction that is easier to understand for children with foreign backgrounds can be helpful because it will also be easier to understand for Japanese children.

学校と一緒に母語を育てるための工夫

1

母語・母文化が大切だと伝える

あなたの子どもにとって母語がとても大切だということを、学校にもわかってもらいましょう。
また、学校でも母語やルーツの国の文化を自信をもって話せる環境をつくってもらいましょう。
職員室、トイレ、体育館などの表示を多言語化したり、運動会などの学校行事で子どもたちによる母語アナウンスを実施したりしている学校もあります。
さらに、給食メニューで母国料理を紹介している学校もあります。

2

積極的に学校にかかわる

言葉が通じないからといって恥ずかしがらず、学校行事に積極的に参加しましょう。
「親とのコミュニケーションをためらわないで。」と、先生に伝えましょう。
先生もあなたの子どもに楽しい学校生活を送ってもらいたいと望んでいます。
先生にとっても、親との情報交換から重要な指導のヒントが得られることがあるのです。

3

あなたが住む地域にある、外国につながる子どもたちを支援する団体やボランティア団体の活用

あなたが暮らしている地域には国際交流協会やボランティア団体があります。
その中には学習支援、日本語学習支援、母語学習支援、居場所づくり活動など、様々な支援をしている団体があります。
学校や家庭でも、こうした団体とネットワークを作っておき、時には協力を仰ぎましょう。
そして外国につながる子どもたちにとってよりよい学習環境づくりを実現していきましょう。

コラム3 学校の先生方へ

生活言語としての日本語は学級での交流の中で身に付きます。
しかし、学習に必要な思考言語は放っておけば失われ、あるいは獲得されないまま学習の遅れにつながっていきます。それは将来の進路選択の幅を狭めます。
どの発達段階にあっても意識して思考する場面を取り入れた指導が必要です。
年齢に相応する思考が確立されていなければ、今現在の思考の発達レベルに戻って教科指導することも必要です。児童生徒の思考の発達段階に沿った教科指導は「わかった」「できる」「もっと知りたい」という意識を高め、次の学習への動機づけになります。

外国につながる子どもたちに分りやすい授業は日本の子どもたちにも分りやすい授業です。

For parents raising children in a foreign country, it can be a challenging task to find children’s books in a child’s mother-tongue for picture book reading. With such mothers in mind, we have created a list of websites on the Internet that feature information on raising children in general and mother-tongue picture books.

多文化な子どもたちの学び 

education-motherlanguage.weebly 

Please search for “多文化な子どもたちの学び”
or
“education-motherlanguage.weebly”
(you should be able to find the webpage shown to the right)



If your mother-tongue is **English** , click here!
Then...



If you click here, you can find a page filled with links.

English language learning materials for native English speaking children (as featured by the nonprofit organization Tagengo Tadoku)
<http://tadoku.org/716lab/download/index.html>

Webpage on picture book reading provided by the Meguro Kodomo Kosodate Net
Animated picture book
http://megurokodomonet.net/_files/00000871/p_2english.pdf

“You did it, Timmy!”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j4hWjfwawTc&feature=youtu.be>

RAINBOW: Multilingual Picture Book Group
<http://www003.upp.so-net.ne.jp/ehon-rainbow/>

Information on how to use the library provided in English
Osaka Prefectural Nakanoshima Library
<http://www.library.pref.osaka.jp/site/nakato/english-nakato.html>

Osaka Municipal Library
http://www.oml.city.osaka.lg.jp/?page_id=130

Suita City Libraries
http://www.lib.suita.osaka.jp/?page_id=183

Nishinomiya City Library
<https://tosho.nishi.or.jp/foreigner/english.html>

子どもたちに母語で絵本を読んであげたいと思っても、外国で子育てをしていると、なかなか入手が難しいですね。そんなお母さんたちのために、インターネットで子育てのための情報や母語絵本などを集めたページを紹介します。

多文化な子どもたちの学び 

education-motherlanguage.weebly 

「多文化な子どもたちの学び」
または
「education-motherlanguage.weebly」
で検索してみてください。
右のページが現れます。

母語が **英語** ならここをクリック！
すると・・・



そこでここをクリックするとリンクページが表示されます。

NPO多言語多読の紹介する英語ネイティブの子ども向けの英語教材
<http://tadoku.org/716lab/download/index.html>

めぐろ子ども子育てネットの絵本読み聞かせのページと
アニメーション絵本
http://megurokodomonet.net/_files/00000871/p_2english.pdf

「すざいよネズミくん」
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j4hWjfwawTc&feature=youtu.be>

多言語絵本の会RAINBOW
<http://www003.upp.so-net.ne.jp/ehon-rainbow/>

英文による図書館利用情報
大阪府立中之島図書館
<http://www.library.pref.osaka.jp/site/nakato/english-nakato.html>

大阪市立図書館
http://www.oml.city.osaka.lg.jp/?page_id=130

吹田市立図書館
http://www.lib.suita.osaka.jp/?page_id=183

西宮市立図書館
<https://tosho.nishi.or.jp/foreigner/english.html>

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「外国につながる児童生徒を受け持つ先生方へ」 （2014年4月）

Planning/ production:	World Kids Community 3-3-8 Kaiun-cho, Nagata-ku, Kobe 653-0052 c/o Takatori Community Center
TEL/FAX:	TEL: 078-736-3012 FAX: 078-736-2211
E-mail:	kids@tcc117.jp
URL:	http://tcc117.jp/kids/
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TEL/FAX:	TEL: 078-736-3012 FAX: 078-736-2211
E-mail:	kids@tcc117.jp
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発行人:	吉富 志津代
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執筆・編集:	落合 知子、松田 陽子、村上 桂太郎、山本 則子、吉富 志津代
イラスト:	平岡 いつき
助成:	トヨタ財団