

Oman äidinkielen merkitys toisen kielen oppimisessa: englantia

Significance of Native Language in Learning a Second Language

Why is it important to learn one's native language?

It is important for children to learn their native language well, because the native language is the foundation for thought and feeling. The native language is also an important tool in learning and acquiring new languages and other knowledge.

Can children learn two or more languages well?

Children are capable of learning and using two or more languages extremely well if given the opportunity to do so.

What language should parents speak to their child(ren)?

Parents should always speak their native language to their child(ren). If parents speak a different language to each other, they should still speak their own native language to their child(ren).

Will a child learn Finnish if the parents speak their native language?

Child(ren) learn Finnish at the daycare, in preschool and school as well as with their friends. If a child knows words and concepts in his/her native language, it will be easier for him/her to learn them in Finnish because (s)he already possesses basic knowledge of them in the native language.

How can parents support the development of their child(ren)'s native language?

Parents can support the development of their child(ren)'s native language by always speaking to them in the language in question. In addition, the child(ren) should participate in native language lessons. The development of the native language also generates a positive attitude in the home toward using the native language.

Should the child(ren) participate in native language lessons?

Child(ren) should participate in lessons in the native language for many reasons: native language teaching reinforces the pupils' ability to think as well as the development of language use, self-expression communication and overall personality. Native language teaching also promotes the readiness to learn and the child(ren)'s success in school.

How can parents support their child(ren)'s learning of Finnish?

The better a child knows his/her own language; the easier it is for him/her to learn a second language. Therefore, parents can support the learning of Finnish by speaking their native language at home as variedly as possible. The child(ren) has the opportunity to learn Finnish at school, with friends and during recreational activities and clubs. At school, the child(ren) will receive teaching in Finnish as a Second Language until they have acquired a level of skills in Finnish near to that of a native speaker. The positive attitude at home toward Finnish helps the child(ren) learn the second language well.

Lyhennetty Opetushallituksen esitteestä Oma kieli – oma mieli. Opas oman äidinkielen oppimisen tukemiseen.