

Contents

<i>The authors</i>	<i>page xi</i>
<i>Preface</i>	<i>xiii</i>
 <i>Part I A survey of the issues</i>	 1
 1 Children and language	 3
<i>What do children use language for?</i>	3
1.1 Building up relationships	3
1.2 Exchanging information	5
1.3 Thinking	6
1.4 Playing with words	7
1.5 Communicating while learning	8
<i>Some general ideas about language</i>	10
1.6 ‘Languages’ and ‘dialects’	10
1.7 The written language and the spoken language	11
1.8 Change	12
1.9 Levels of language	13
1.10 Varieties of language	16
1.11 Acquiring a language	18
 2 What is bilingualism?	 22
2.1 Some definitions of bilingualism	22
2.2 ‘Elitist’ bilingualism and ‘folk’ bilingualism	23
2.3 Different kinds of bilingual societies	26
2.4 Bilingualism is not rare	28
2.5 National identity and the monolingual state: the example of France, French and the French	28
2.6 ‘Official’ and individual bilingualism	30

viii Contents

3	Some things you should know about being bilingual	33
3.1	Bilingualism is a matter of degree	33
3.2	Compound and co-ordinate bilinguals	39
3.3	Age of acquisition	42
3.4	Sharing two cultures	45
4	The development of the bilingual child	50
	<i>Simultaneous acquisition</i>	50
4.1	Types of bilingual families	51
4.2	Similarities in development between bilinguals and monolinguals	54
4.3	Separating the two languages	55
4.4	Awareness of being a bilingual	61
4.5	Code-switching and translation	63
4.6	A ‘born translator’?	67
	<i>Successive bilingualism</i>	69
4.7	Is a second language learnt in the same way as the first?	70
	<i>Bilingualism and intelligence</i>	73
5	What will influence your decision whether to bring up your children as bilinguals?	77
	<i>Questions you should ask yourself</i>	77
5.1	What is your own language background and history?	77
5.2	What language(s) do you speak to one another?	78
5.3	How do you use your respective languages?	79
5.4	Who is going to look after your child?	79
5.5	What are your attitudes towards your own language?	81
5.6	What contacts do you have with the rest of the family?	82
5.7	What are the languages concerned?	83
5.8	What means of support are available for maintaining the language?	86
5.9	Would you have to change the way you communicate with one another?	86
	<i>Reaching a decision</i>	87
5.10	Some ‘golden rules’	87
5.11	Assess your own situation	88
	Questionnaire	89

	<i>Contents</i>	ix
 <i>Part II Case studies: a number of bilingual families, and how they did it</i>		
		93
Case Study 1: English as a ‘father tongue’		96
Case Study 2: Playing it by ear		97
Case Study 3: Bilingualism begins at the front door		99
Case Study 4: Conversational switching strategy		102
Case Study 5: Travelling light – bilingualism as basic baggage		104
Case Study 6: Biculturalism, yes; bilingualism, no		106
Case Study 7: Family roots first – one parent, one language		108
Case Study 8: My home is my (linguistic) castle		109
Case Study 9: ‘Kids’ lib’ – accepting one’s children’s linguistic independence		111
Case Study 10: Traces from childhood		113
Case Study 11: A cultural heritage – one parent, one language		116
Case Study 12: Two homes, two languages, two cultures		118
Case Study 13: Easy come, easy go		120
Case Study 14: Determination – and a sense of humour		124
Case Study 15: Language as religious and social identity		127
Case Study 16: Bilingualism – and a better life		128
Case Study 17: Single parent, two languages		130
Case Study 18: Bilingualism in a ‘reconfigured’ family		131
 <i>Part III An alphabetical reference guide</i>		
		135
Accent		137
Age		137
Aptitude		139
Baby talk		140
Biliteracy		141
Code-switching		142
Colours		144
Correcting		144
Counting		145
Dictionaries		146
Doctors – and other ‘authorities’		147
Dreams		148
Gesture – and non-verbal communication in general		150
Internet		151

x	<i>Contents</i>	
	Interpreting and translating	152
	Mixing	153
	Names	155
	Nationality	156
	Other languages	156
	Reactivation of dormant languages	158
	Reading	158
	Refusing to speak the language	159
	School	161
	Script / Writing system	164
	Spelling	165
	Stuttering	167
	Swearing	169
	Television	171
	Very young children	173
	Visitors	175
	Writing	176
	<i>Quotations</i>	177
	<i>Recommended resources</i>	178
	<i>Bibliography</i>	180
	<i>References</i>	181
	<i>Index</i>	188