



ASK THE EXPERTS

Q: My Year 3 Polish pupil is reluctant to share her Polish in the classroom. What can I do to encourage her?

A: It's good practice to encourage any EAL pupil to use their first language in the classroom, sharing it, if possible, with any other pupils who speak the same language. A first language is an integral part of anyone's identity - it is very important that it continues to be developed in order to ensure the pupil achieves fluency in both languages.

There are several ways you can make your pupil feel happy to use her first language skills:

- Answering the register in different languages every week will enable her to see that other pupils enjoy learning and using different languages.
- Asking one of her parents or another Polish speaker to come into class to read a story in Polish (and English) to the children.
- Learning a simple Polish song and teaching it to the whole class
- Using the website link below for "Language of the Month" resources in Polish, and many other languages. It shows short videos of pupils modelling simple words and phrases in their first languages: www.newburypark.redbridge.sch.uk/langofmonth/Share

