## Ten Top Tips for supporting children with EAL

- 1. Don't worry if the child does not talk for some months. Involve him/her in all activities, continue to talk and use smiles, gestures and eye contact. Give opportunities for speaking but no pressure.
- Help the child to understand simple classroom phrases... "Can I have..?",
  "Wash your hands," "Sit on the carpet," "Hang up your coat," "Put on
  an apron."
- 3. Involve the child in a variety of hands-on activities with other children so he/she can learn the new language in context.
- 4. Use visual aids to support stories, songs and talk, e.g pictures, objects, photographs and puppets.
- 5. Use every activity as a basis for your communication with the child in meaningful contexts.
- 6. Talk through what you are doing so the child can hear plenty of structured language in context with visual support.
- 7. Keep language direct, simple and consistent. Try to avoid idioms and sayings, e.g. "It's raining cats and dogs!"
- 8. Make sure resources show positive images of the child's home culture, e.g. books, dolls, toys, games, role-play. Use dual language texts and signs.
- 9. Provide taped stories and songs in English, and in the home language, if possible.
- 10. Help all the children to learn a few simple words in the home languages represented in your setting, e.g. hello, thank you, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (if possible, use the parents/carers help for this).