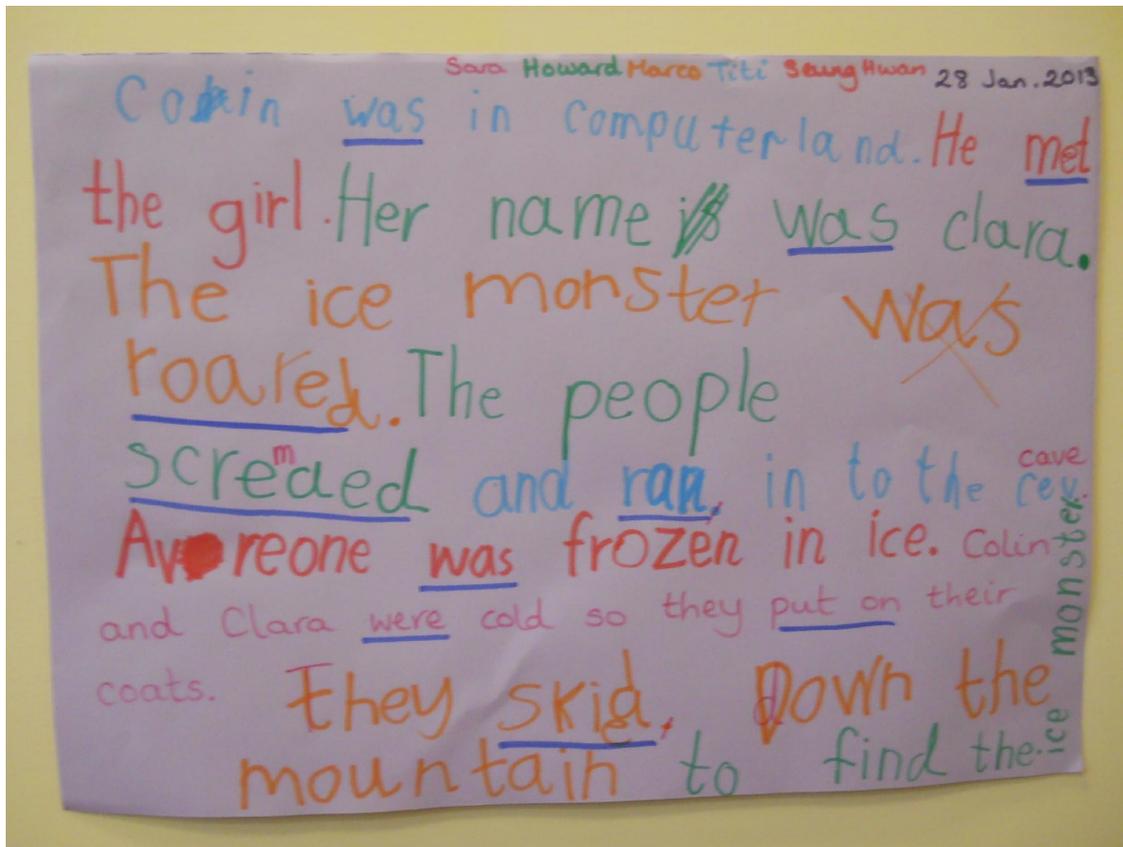




EAL INFORMATION BOOKLET



Dear Parents,

Welcome to Harbour International! Our names are Pamela and Sara and we are the EAL (English as Another Language) teachers. Our job is to help children to learn English during school time in a supportive environment.

We would like to provide you with some basic information regarding the lessons we give during school hours. The booklet includes advice for parents of bilingual and multilingual children and what to expect as your child acquires a new language. Your child's language background form (completed on entrance to the school) provides us with extra information about your child's language acquisition.

If you would like to see us to talk about EAL at school or your child's progress, please feel free to make an appointment to see us. We both work on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.



learning about different tastes

EAL (English as Another Language) -

What is our job?

- To help children, with little or no English, feel safe and secure in the classroom and whole school situation.
- To help children to further their knowledge and use of spoken and written English.

How do we do that?

- We withdraw beginners 2-3 times a week for lessons of 45 mins to an hour.
- We teach the children in small groups to learn social and formal language.
- We also collaborate with the class teachers to help the children to access the full curriculum. E.g. maths, reading.
- For children who are at the developing stage, we work on furthering reading, writing and speaking skills to a more advanced level.

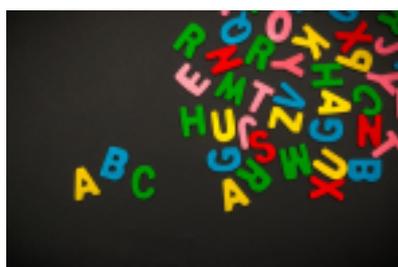
What are the stages of language learning?

- Stage 1 – Beginning
 - Stage 2 – Developing
 - Stage 3 – Mastering
-
- Our programme is structured in such a way that **skills are built on progressively and are tailored to the needs of the children.**

Beginners in EAL

What to Expect

- Some children will go through a silent period while they are adjusting to the new situation.
- Children will sometimes mix their home language with the English they have learned.
- Children will have times when features from their own language appear in their English usage. E.g. the word order or pronunciation of their home language is transferred to English.
- Some children will behave differently during the adjustment period. **THIS IS COMPLETELY NORMAL!**



Bilingual Children – What the Research Tells Us

These are some of the most important points to emerge from the extensive research into language acquisition by specialists in the field (Cummins, Krashen, Skutnabb-Kangas).

- Children take up to **two years** to develop ‘basic interpersonal communication skills’ (social language [BICS]).
- It takes from **five to seven years** to acquire the full range of literacy skills (‘cognitive academic language proficiency’ [CALPS]) needed to cope with the formal language demands of school aged children (up to age 18).
- A silent (receptive) period is natural in the learning of a second or further language.
- Teachers/schools should have basic information available about the language backgrounds of bi/multilingual pupils.
- There should be awareness by all at home and school that a focus on home languages is a valuable channel to support learning.
- Parents should be encouraged to share language and literacy in speaking and listening as well as in reading and writing. This is as valuable in the home language as in English.
- Bi/multilingualism can be educationally enriching and has a positive effect on intellectual performance.
- Bi/multilingualism should be valued as a special achievement.

Taken from: “Assessing the Needs of Bilingual Pupils (Living in two Languages) by Deryn Hall.



Advice to Parents of EAL Children

- Make your child feel as secure and happy as possible in his/her new environment.
- Speak your home language with your child. Use every occasion to develop and extend it naturally.

- Speak to your child about school, so that school vocabulary is developed in the home language.
- Read regularly to your child in your home language.
- When your child starts to read English at school, listen to him/her read every day. Talk about the story in your home language and explain anything that your child does not understand. Using your home language to discuss your children's work will help to improve their proficiency and understanding of English. We call this **translanguaging**.
- If your child can read or write in his/her home language before entering our school, continue to develop these skills at home.
- Your child will regularly borrow (audio) books from the EAL teachers this year, please return these books after a week. Please look after these books and return them in the bags provided.
- Make sure your child goes to bed early enough on school days. Learning and speaking a new language can be very tiring and it is important that children start the day fresh.
- Make contact with the parents of other children and encourage contact between the children after school.
- If you have any questions about your child's progress in English, do not hesitate to contact the class teacher or the EAL teacher. We are always happy to talk to you about any concerns.



EAL Websites and Resources

Here is a short list of EAL websites which include **free** activities and worksheets for EAL learners of various ages and stages of English learning. If you Google 'language games' many more will come up!

www.funbrain.com/words.html (reading and IPC topics)

www.learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org (listening, understanding, reading through educational games)

www.oxfordowl.co.uk/home/ (reading, understanding, speaking and listening)

www.doorwayonline.org.uk (spelling)

Have a look at Ryerson University website: www.MyLanguage.ca 'Hold on to your home language' **brochure**. This website provides you with information about the importance of home language. It has been translated into several different languages.

The first 100 common words in English flashcards: These are useful to cut up and practise at home with children who are starting to read English.

Just open the link to access and print this resource.
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oLpbPWUoFn8oYpE80lDDbItkijGmRg7G/view?usp=sharing>

