

The First Few Days

At first, your newly arrived pupil will watch you and the other children in the class or group to understand what is going on. It is very important at this stage to make your communication as visual as possible.

Consider using:

- Facial expressions (possibly exaggerated)
- Actions (walk to the door to explain lining up)
- Gestures (thumbs up/thumbs down)
- Learn a couple of key words in the pupils language, even knowing 'yes/no and hello' goes a long way in relationship building
- Real objects (e.g. hold up a pencil if you want the pupils to use a pencil)
- Toy objects (find the farm or zoo animals when talking about animals)
- Pictures, photographs, maps, diagrams (these do not have to be beautifully produced. A quick sketch on a whiteboard while you are talking will aid understanding.)

Your newly arrived pupil will learn English best from the other pupils in your class. Take the pupil out of the class to work alone **as little as possible**. Instead sit the bilingual pupil next to a sympathetic, supportive pupil who will be a good language role model.