

BILINGUAL KIDS · AGES 2-8

Language Mixing: What's Normal

ONE-PAGE CHEAT SHEET

- 1 It's called code-switching**
Your child pulls whichever word arrives first, in whichever language — a structured skill, not confusion.
- 2 It doesn't mean languages are "tangled"**
Bilingual children distinguish their languages from as early as age one.
- 3 Model, don't correct**
Repeat the English word back naturally: "You want more water? Here you go."
- 4 Let them finish the sentence**
Interrupting to correct teaches hesitation, not fluency.
- 5 Skip strict language-only rules**
Rigid "English only" zones add stress without speeding progress.
- 6 It fades on its own**
Mixing typically decreases as vocabulary grows in both languages — no intervention needed.
- 7 When to check in with a professional**
Only if there's a broader delay in BOTH languages at once — not for ordinary mixing.