

# Reading Bear's Advice Column

Dear Reading Bear,

I don't speak English very well. Should I read to my child in Spanish or try to read to him in English?

Concerned Parent

Dear Concerned Parent,

If your Spanish is a lot better than your English, then speak, read, and sing to your child in Spanish. There is an incredible body of research that supports the view that hearing two languages will not confuse your child or interfere with his/her reading skills.

Below are some Websites you can download that will help to build your child's literacy skills:

<http://www.colorincolorado.org> -It has fun reading tips and activities that will help your child to succeed at school. The text is in English or Spanish.

<http://www.freetranslation.com> – It will translate text from your native language to English.

<http://www.readinga-z.com> - You can download books in Spanish, English, and other languages

<http://www.readingrockets.org/tv/bilingual.php> - This is a 30-minute PBS program that examines the challenges of teaching children to read in a new language.

<http://encarta.msn.com/encnet/features/Dictionary/DictionaryHome.aspx> – This is where you can hear how a word is pronounced in English.