



# Bilingual Cake

***Bilingual Cake compares learning to speak in two languages to the process of baking a cake. It introduces a new family centred approach to bilingualism.***

Many children grow up in families with two or more languages. Often people assume that daily contact will lead to the child automatically speaking all those languages.

Unfortunately that is not how it works.

Many children learn to speak the language of their migrant parent to a varying extent. But many others do not. That can be a painful experience for the child and for the family.

I encountered this problem back in 1992 while working with primary school children from a bilingual family. Soon I realized their difficulties were not an isolated case. I wanted to find out why some children become bilingual, while others do not.

Learning more and more about bilingualism I became a sociologist of family and an educational researcher. In 2009-2012 I carried out the first known research study into natural everyday talk between school-aged bilingual children and their parents. Now I help parents and schools to promote a more harmonious bilingual learning experience. I also aim to reduce parental stress.

The Bilingual Cake talk is a journey into understanding what goes on in everyday talk in bilingual families and how that affects bilingual learning outcomes.

Bilingual cake does not give “to do” lists. It gives a new way to think about bilingualism.