

# TRAINING FOR TEACHERS AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS

We have designed a range of training sessions for early childhood educators and primary school teachers in areas related to linguistic and cultural diversity. All workshops are tailored to your setting and include both theory and practical applications.

The training can be offered to individuals, to groups of teachers from the same school/early years settings or to clusters of schools/early years settings. It can be delivered face-to-face or online via Zoom or through the schools' online learning platform. All training is delivered through English.

Each attendee receives a certificate via email.  
Tailored training is available upon request.

## ABOUT THE TRAINER

Dr Francesca La Morgia is a linguist with more than 10 years of experience delivering training in the area of bilingual language development and bilingual education. Francesca has an MPhil in Applied Linguistics from Trinity College Dublin and a PhD in bilingual language acquisition from DCU.



She is currently a lecturer in Language Studies at the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education. Francesca has delivered training to mainstream teachers, EAL teachers and teacher trainers in Ireland, Belgium the UK and Switzerland.

Some of the locations include the European Commission offices in Brussels, the IIS International School in Geneva, the Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Ireland and the EAL network at Leeds University. In 2019 together with Pádraig O'Duibhir and Bozena Dubiel Francesca delivered a webinar on childhood bilingualism hosted by the Teaching Council.

Francesca's publications include articles in international peer-review journals and books and contributions to the support materials for the Primary Language Curriculum and a toolkit for using the first language in English medium instruction for Oxford University Press. Her activity book *Language Explorers*, available in English and Irish, is used by hundreds of teachers in Europe.

## COST

Training courses last two hours and they are open to groups of up to 30 teachers. The cost of each course is € 350 (inclusive of travel expenses in the Dublin region). If booking for a school outside Dublin, travel expenses will be added to the cost of the workshop. If two training sessions are booked on the same day, a discount of 10% is applicable.

We currently offer the following training courses:



## An introduction to bilingualism: the early years

In this course you will learn about the development of two or more languages in the early years and you will be introduced to techniques that educators and families can implement to support children's linguistic development in each of the languages. Attendees will learn to:

- Distinguish between different types of bilingual/multilingual children
- Identify phenomena typical of bilingual language development
- Select appropriate techniques to improve children's language and communication skills
- Support multilingual families by giving evidence-based advice

**Duration:** 2 hours

**Target audience:** This two hour course is designed for teachers and early childhood educators working with children up to 6 years of age who speak more than one language. The course is suitable for English medium settings, Irish medium settings and international/multilingual schools.



## An introduction to bilingualism: the primary school years

In this course you will learn about the development of two or more languages in the primary school years and you will be introduced to techniques that teachers and families can implement to support children's linguistic development in each of the languages. Attendees will learn to:

- Distinguish between different types of bilingual/multilingual children
- Identify phenomena typical of bilingual language development in the primary school
- Identify suitable approaches to use all of the children's languages in school
- Select appropriate techniques to improve children's language and communication skills
- Support multilingual families by giving evidence-based advice

**Duration:** 2 hours

**Target audience:** This two hour course is designed for primary school teachers working with children who speak more than one language. The course is suitable for English medium settings and international/multilingual schools.

**A separate course is available for Irish medium schools.**



## An introduction to bilingualism in language immersion settings: the primary school years

In this course you will learn about the development of two or more languages in the primary school years and you will be introduced to techniques that teachers and families can implement to support children who attend immersion education in a minority language. Attendees will learn to:

- Distinguish between different types of bilingual/multilingual children
- Identify phenomena typical of bilingual language development and second language learning in the primary school
- Identify suitable approaches to boost language skills through immersion education
- Select appropriate techniques to improve children's language and communication skills
- Support families by giving evidence-based advice

**Duration:** 2 hours

**Target audience:** This two hour course is designed for primary school teachers working with children in immersion settings. The course is suitable for Irish medium settings and schools that offer a language immersion model.

**A separate course is available for English medium schools.**



## Supporting preschool children who are new to English

This course provides preschool teachers who are new to teaching who speak English as an additional language. It offers guidance and strategies to support pupils and their families.

Attendees will learn to:

- Distinguish between different types of bilingual/multilingual children
- Identify typical phenomena in English language learning in childhood
- Identify suitable approaches to support EAL in the preschool setting
- Select appropriate techniques to improve children's language and communication skills
- Support families of EAL by giving evidence-based advice

**Duration:** 2 hours

**Target audience:** This two hour course is designed for primary school teachers working with EAL pupils. The course is suitable for English medium settings and international/multilingual schools.



## Supporting primary school children who are new to English

This course provides teachers who are new to teaching EAL pupils either in the mainstream classroom or as EAL support teachers. It offers guidance and strategies to support pupils who are starting to learn English as an additional language.

Attendees will learn to:

- Distinguish between different types of bilingual/multilingual children
- Identify typical phenomena in English language learning in childhood
- Identify suitable approaches to support EAL in the primary school setting
- Select appropriate techniques to improve children's language and communication skills
- Support families of EAL by giving evidence-based advice

**Duration:** 2 hours

**Target audience:** This two hour course is designed for primary school teachers working with EAL pupils. The course is suitable for English medium settings and international/multilingual schools.



## Making the most of linguistic diversity in your classroom

In this course you will learn about the many ways in which your pupils can share their language superpowers! Based on the core principles of the national curriculum, this course shows teachers how to use the languages children learn at home as a resource in the classroom to benefit the linguistic, psycho-social and emotional development of all pupils. Note: no foreign language skills required!

Attendees will learn to:

- Distinguish between different types of bilingual/multilingual children
- Identify ways to use pupils' languages within existing curricular activities
- Meet the learning outcomes by using pupils' languages as a resource
- Support families by giving evidence-based advice on bilingualism
- Reflect on how to use translanguageing in the classroom

Design a language policy for your class

**Duration:** 2 hours

**Target audience:** This two hour course is designed for primary school teachers working in classes where a range of languages are spoken by the children and their families. Attendees do not need to know foreign languages.



## ABOUT MOTHER TONGUES

Mother Tongues is a non-for profit organization aimed at promoting multilingualism in Ireland. We work with schools, families, community groups and artists through a range of activities that allow children to experience language in new and exciting ways outside the home environment.

We believe that parents and educators need to learn about bilingualism (and plurilingualism), children need to experience their heritage language and communities need to come together and enjoy linguistic diversity.



## LEARN ABOUT BILINGUALISM

We offer talks and short courses on bilingual language development, providing families with the tools they need to successfully raise children with two or more languages. We know that sometimes parents find it hard to maintain their language in Ireland because children have little or no opportunity to use it. We also support and train professionals who work closely with plurilingual children and families.

## EXPERIENCE HERITAGE LANGUAGES

All our projects aim to give children the opportunity to experience their heritage language through meet ups, storytelling sessions and creative activities.

## ENJOY LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY

We encourage school children and teachers to learn more about linguistic diversity and bilingualism through our Language Explorers programme.

Our yearly arts Festival celebrates UNESCO International Mother Language Day by offering a rich artistic programme in more than 20 different languages for everyone to enjoy.

Mother Tongues is a branch of Conradh na Gaeilge.

[www.movertongues.ie](http://www.movertongues.ie)

## ABOUT LANGUAGE EXPLORERS

Language Explorers is our award winning, fun and engaging intercultural programme focused on language as a tool to explore linguistic diversity in the classroom and to raise important questions about how languages work and how we use them.

Since establishing the programme, more than 1000 children have taken part in workshops in primary schools, libraries and at public events such as Africa Day, Probe and Kaleidoscope Festival.

