



Móðurmál.
the Association on Biligualism

A small presentation about us

Insights into our past, present, and future

26 years of Móðurmál in Iceland



1. Established in **1994** by parents of bilingual children, NGO established in **2001**.
2. Umbrella organisation that has supported more than 20 different language groups.
3. Running on volunteer basis but seeking governmental support.
4. Ethical code for Móðurmál since 2017.
5. Support from the city of Reykjavík: 2 schools open for us on Saturdays, economical support for material.
6. Presence at the primary schools and kindergartens. Participation on regular events of the city of Reykjavik (The Children Festival, International day of Mother Tongue, International day of languages, etc.)
7. Yearly congress since 2013, with international participation, for our teachers and open to others.

Previous conferences



2013 - **Mother Tongues: A Ticket to Better Futures** (Mica Allan, Iceland, and Radka Dalová, the Czech Republic).

2014 - **Languages Stimulation of Children in Diverse Groups on Preschool and Elementary School Level** (Barbara Day, Denmark).

2015 - **The Treasures of Languages** (Deirdre Kirwan, Ireland).

2016 - **Beautiful Languages: Successful and Sustainable** (Olenka Bilash, Canada).

2017 - **Mother Tongue Instruction: Iceland, Sweden and Canada** (Trudie Aberdeen and Josephine Pallard, Canada, and Silvia Cordero, Sweden).

2018 - **The Mother Tongue Curriculum for Iceland** (Anna Reath Warren, Sweden, and Judith Purkarthofer, Norway).

2019 - **Móðurmál: Teaching plurilingual children.**

2020 - **Heritage Language Education Conference** (cooperation with Mother Tongues in Dublin, speakers from Ireland, Australia, Greece, Canada, the Netherlands, and Iceland)

Several awards from different institutions



2008: For A Job Well Done, awarded by Alþjóðahús (International Center)

2014: The Society Award of Frettabladid (newspaper)

2016: Parents' award from the National Parents' Association

2019: Human Rights Award of the City of Reykjavík



Projects for our groups



- Language and environment:

Creating a dictionary about sustainability - 2016/17

- Móðurmál-Bilingual book - 2018/19



- 17 goals for sustainable development

-Video with children presenting the selected goals - 2019/20



Flyer for parents in 9 languages



How do you help your child with your language?

Always speak your own language with your child. That way it learns more. You should not shame the child for answering you in another language but repeat what it said in your language and continue the conversation.

It is best to create a variety of opportunities for the child to use the mother tongue by using and teaching complicated words and phrases that do not only include "come to eat, go to sleep, brush your teeth" and so on.



Take the child to events where their mother tongue is spoken so (s)he can see other people use to communicate.



Teach the child stories, nursery rhymes, songs, fairy tales and games that are part of your culture and language.

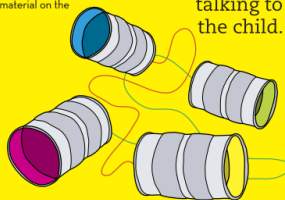


Use the mother tongue to talk about TV programmes and films the child likes to watch.



Ask the child what (s)he did at school. You can help him/her with homework by talking about the work and finding similar material on the internet or in books.

Do not mix languages when talking to the child.



Cook and bake together, look at cookbooks together or use the internet to find recipes in your language that are connected to your culture.



Read to the child and talk to him/her about the content.



What is bilingualism?

Help your child with your language



Mother tongue:
The language of one or both parents.
A child can have more than one mother tongue.

ENSKA

Móðurmál

– Organisation on bilingualism

We advocate mother tongue teaching for bilingual children and help parents to create groups where their language is taught.

Many groups are active and new language groups are being formed all the time. We also want to increase knowledge of bilingualism by general discourse and education.

Do you want to know more? www.modurnal.com
Do you want to join us? modurnal@hotmail.com
Contact us! **We're also on Facebook**

Móðurmál – Organisation on bilingualism in cooperation with the City of Reykjavik with finance from The Development Fund for Immigrant Issues.

Bilingual and multilingual:

Children that speak one language at home and another outside the home are bilingual. Children that speak two or more languages at home and another outside the home are bilingual or multilingual. About 70% of the people on Earth are bilingual and use more than one language daily. Children can easily learn two languages at the same time.

All languages of the child are important.

The language is the key to communication both with the family in Iceland and with family members abroad. Good language skills contribute to a strong self-image and help the child participate both in his parents' society and in Icelandic society. Bilingual children find it easier to learn other languages in the future. They will also have more career and educational opportunities.

GUIDELINES

TEAM WORK ON BEHALF OF
THE MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND
CULTURE

Language Map 2021

The purpose was to map languages spoken by children and youth in preschools and compulsory schools in Iceland and to raise positive awareness and discussions about languages and plurilingualism.
109 languages were found

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Guidelines for the support of mother tongues and active plurilingualism in schools and afterschool programs

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