

Course description

Bilingual Early Years

Course objectives

Our Bilingual Section welcomes four and five-year-old students from a wide range of backgrounds who speak English as a first language. We aim to help learners:

- practise and develop their oral English
- begin developing reading skills by recognising sounds associated with different letters
- listen and respond to stories
- learn about the English-speaking world through stories, games and songs

Approach to learning

At the British Council we offer high-quality, effective English teaching to help learners build confidence, become better communicators and prepare for their future all in a positive, safe and inclusive learning environment.

Our teachers are experts in supporting Early Years bilingual learners. Our fun and absorbing classes use storybooks, songs and chants as a starting point to develop children's social skills, encouraging them to empathise with different characters and encouraging the values of sharing and tolerance. Discussion work develops students' capacity to understand, recount and respond to the stories, whilst also extending their emergent vocabulary.

We make use of various phonics resources to teach the children how to recognise and say the different sounds associated with the letters of English. By the end of the Bilingual Early Years programme, we hope that learners will be beginning to utilise these techniques to read simple words. We also support learners in the development of the motor skills needed for writing.

Above all, we aim to make our classes a fun and engaging environment for our Early Years learners, foregrounding creativity, imagination and play to stimulate their development.

Assessment

Our teachers assess our Early Years learners informally throughout the year and their feedback is shared with parents during parent consultations and by way of the mid-year report.