



Thuis meerdere talen leren:  
mogelijkheden en uitdagingen

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# Een wandeling door Brussel



# Europese buurt



- **Thousands of multilingual brusseleers**
- **Multilingual staff**
- **Enjoy multilingualism!**
- **Hundreds of mixed families**

# Elsene



- **Much more international**
- **40% of foreign population**
- **More than 100 nationalities**

# But how will I manage???

1 gezin = 5 talen



# 1<sup>st</sup> myth

## “Growing with different languages will confuse the children”

- Most people in the world are bilingual. Are they all confused?
- On the contrary: latest research confirms cognitive advantages in multilingual children, such as increased flexibility and mental agility,
- Language mixing is just a phase in the child's language development
- Multilingualism does not create any identity problems either, but beware! It may give you an open mind and some extra tolerance... 😊





# 2<sup>nd</sup> myth

- **Children pick up languages extremely easily**
  - Yes, children have illimited capacity, but it still requires an extra effort for them to crack different codes
  - Their parents will need to make sure they are sufficiently and richly exposed to the different languages. Since time is limited: the more languages, the bigger the challenge (especially for specialised vocabulary)



# Keys to success

- **Nood + Motivatie (like in nearly everything in life)**
- **Well adapted strategy (e. g. one parent one language) + Consistency**
- **Talk, talk, talk! Don't be afraid and have fun!**





# Brussel: zoveel mogelijkheden



- **Multiculturele scholen: meertaligheid is overal maar waar zijn de meertalige scholen?**
- **Extraschool activiteiten, culturele centra: mix, mix, mix**
- **Oppas/buren die andere talen spreken...**
- **Films in originele versie, muziek...**

# Marnix: publions la recette

- All the ingredients are here (so many multilinguals in Brussels!)
- But few people have the recipe at hand

