

Swedish as a Second Language (SSL)

It is essential that children whose mother tongue is not Swedish take part in classes of Swedish as a Second Language. This applies also to children born in Sweden whose native language is other than Swedish.

(The subjects Swedish and Swedish as a Second Language (SSL) are two different subjects with separate syllabi. Both subjects are equal in terms of eligibility to Upper Secondary education.)

The objectives of tuition of Swedish as a Second Language:

- * the opportunity for pupils to develop the skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing
- * to achieve first language standard in Swedish.
- * to live and work in Swedish society with the same opportunities as pupils whose mother tongue is Swedish

Who is entitled to tuition of Swedish as a Second Language?

* The requirements and needs of each individual student are what decide whether he or she will participate according to the curriculum of Swedish or of Swedish as a Second Language (SSL).

/Swedish Statute Book § 14-15

* It is the decision of the principal which pupils will participate.

The ruling will be based on diagnosis and assessment of the pupil's knowledge of the language.

/ Compulsory School Ordinance 2011:185 kap. 5 14

Parents matter to the language development of a child - that's why you have been offered this advice on language stimulus. Turn to the staff at your preschool, school or clinic with any queries you might have about mother tongue support or Swedish as a Second Language.

Your mother tongue – an important asset

About your child's multilingual development



Knowing a number of languages is a great benefit. A child can learn two or more languages at the same time. At home, a child will learn the parents' native languages

It is easier to learn Swedish once a child has first become confident in his or her mother tongue

Mothers and fathers with different native languages can be consistent in speaking their respective language to their child. Blending languages while learning them is a natural thing for a child

In preschool and in school children will learn Swedish while developing their mother tongue at the same time. A child who practices both mother tongue and Swedish will have access to his or her cultural background and thus be part of two cultures

Taking part in preschool mother tongue tuition is vital for the development of the language most used in the home. Confidence in using mother tongue is a basis for achieving satisfactory results in all school subjects



Några bra tips:

- Talk to your child and discuss things in your mother tongue so that the child practices and develops his or her language.
- Listen to what your child says and answer his or her questions
- Tell the child stories and relate experiences. This will broaden the child's language and thought processes
- Read books together – this will improve speaking, reading and writing skills
- Songs, rhymes and poems are beneficial to language development.