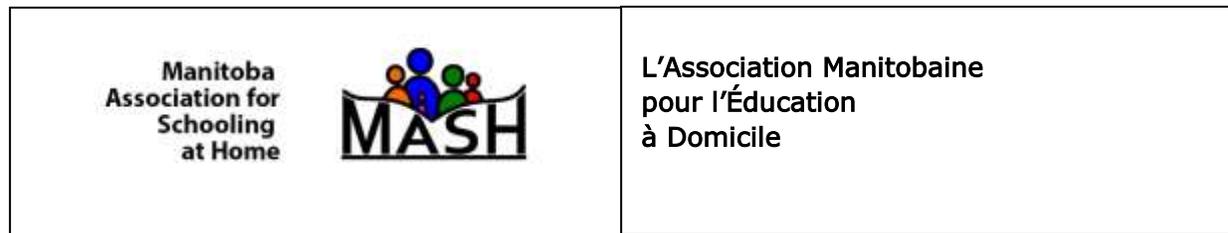

NEWSLETTER



President's Message

Hello MASH Members,

Since the early 1980's MASH has been serving the needs of Manitoba homeschoolers. I've been a part of this community for about half that time. There were seasons where MASH receded to the background, and my family and I neither needed nor offered much support. But there have also been seasons where MASH activities and support helped me continue to homeschool, helped me feel normal and capable. And of course, whether I was actively involved or not, MASH was working hard to represent my interests to the outside world, especially the government. MASH representatives helped the government draft the new policies that still direct our homeschool experience today.

Times change, and people change, and the needs of communities change. In 2013, MASH reinvented itself in order to deal with a flagging membership, a decrease in volunteers and an increased administrative load. The board officially dissolved, reworked the organizational bylaws, and rebirthed MASH.

The response has been gratifying. In three years we have established ourselves as the largest homeschool group in the province and the only secular, inclusive group, representing ALL homeschoolers, regardless of faith, philosophies or points of view. Our official membership has grown by almost 450% to over 350, and our Facebook group has grown to over 500 members! The advisory team has added a host of new volunteers and the amount of information and activities being offered to our membership has grown significantly – e-news, newsletter, teen group, workshops, conference, field trips, picnics, etc.

(continued on page 3)

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

Articles and photos pertaining to homeschooling and home life are welcome. Submissions are welcome at any time and will be considered for the upcoming newsletter. Submission of an article does not guarantee publication. Files and photos may be sent to the editor by email via info@manitobahomeschool.com. Please indicate "Submission for Newsletter" in the subject line of your email.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertising must be submitted to the editor by the following dates:

November 20, 2016 (winter issue)

February 20, 2017 (spring issue)

May 30, 2017 (summer issue)

Rates are as follows:

Full page - \$30 per issue

Half page - \$20 per issue

Quarter page - \$10 per issue

YOUR MASH ADVISORY TEAM

President: Jennifer Gehman

Vice-President: vacant

Secretary/Newsletter Editor: Edwina Shwedyk

Treasurer/E-news Editor: Tammy Sutherland

Media Liaison/Website: Kirby Gehman

Government Liaison: Rachael Fecyk-Lamb

Events/Teens: Vicki Buechler

Members-at-Large: Linda Harrison,
Monique Turner

Francophone Liaisons: Lise Malo, Marc Malo

Website: manitobahomeschool.com

Email contact:

info@manitobahomeschool.com

facebook.com/groups/manitobahomeschool/

Mailing Address: MASH no longer has a mailing address.

Homeschool Discounts

Remember to ask for a discount at stores and services! Here are some places that give discounts. (Show the paper card the government gives you when your notification process is complete.)

McNally Robinson Booksellers – 20% discount

Toad Hall Toys – 10% discount

Please note that the discount may only be for select items and is subject to change.

(President's Message continued from page 1)

But with change and growth come problems. We've been informed by lawyers that to preserve the safety of our team, our leaders and our members we need to have liability insurance, and liability insurance is expensive.

In 2013 we discontinued our membership fee, both to allow anyone regardless of financial status to join MASH, but also to lessen the administrative burden on the MASH board. We would like to continue to ease the workload of our volunteers and make membership open to all, and so we decided to try raising the funds we need through a donation campaign. By doing so, we are hoping that everyone will give as generously as they are able and that MASH can continue to move forward and grow. Of course, if we are successful, we have a whole slate of programming we can offer.

If we are not successful, we will need to re-evaluate either the implementation of a formal membership fee, or the possibility that MASH will continue to act only as an information and advocacy group, and would no longer be able to offer any in-person programming.

And so the tiny feet of change and progress are skipping forward, and we at MASH are hoping you will join our march! Please help us to continue helping you.

<https://www.gofundme.com/manitobahomeschool>

Jennifer Gehman

Jennifer is a homeschooling mother to five children. She has two homeschool graduates - one completing her degree in Creative Communications at Red River, and one about to study Photography at Tec Voc's Post High program. This fall she will be homeschooling grades 12, 10 and 6. She has been a member of MASH on and off for over twenty years, has served with the board since 2009 and is the current president.

MASH Mission Statement

MASH is a not-for-profit group dedicated to creating a sense of association among homeschoolers throughout the province of Manitoba. MASH actively promotes and advocates homeschooling by providing information to the homeschooling community. MASH also works as a liaison between homeschoolers and the Government of Manitoba.

Fill Out Your Forms! Fill Out Your Forms!

It's hard to believe that it has been almost a year since we sent out the newsletter with the "I'm Homeschooling! Now to Notify the Government..." article. That means that it is that time again. Time to fill out your notification forms and let the government know that you intend to homeschool.

Aside from having a different year on the form, this year's form look exactly the same as last year's form, so if you have done this before, you are probably good to go. If you haven't done it before, or felt that you had problems in previous years with the notification form, read on.

Do I have to notify the government that I intend to homeschool my children?

If your children are 7 or will be turning 7 by the end of this December, and is younger than 18 year of age, and you do not register them at a public or private school, you do need to notify the government of your intent to homeschool them. Children between those ages are of compulsory school age, according to provincial legislation, so they must be offered an education, either through public or private schools, or through homeschooling.

How do I notify the government of my intention to homeschool my children?

For each child that you intend to homeschool, you will need to complete a one page form, which is available at this link:

<http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/schools/ind/homeschool/notification.html>

You can complete the form in English or in French and need to submit it to the Homeschooling Office by email (homeschooling@gov.mb.ca), by mail to the address on the form or by fax to 204-948-3470.

The form is due by September 1, 2016 or within 30 days of establishing your homeschool (so if, for instance, your children attended school for the month of September and then you decided you wanted to homeschool them and they stopped attending school in early October, you would have 30 days from their first day of being home from public/private school to send in the notification forms.

What if I am late sending in the notification form?

Fill it out and send it in. Even if it is late. A quick note to explain why would not be amiss but they Department of Education would rather you send it in late than not at all.

Should I fill out the forms even if my child is not of compulsory school age?

You can. You just are not obliged to do so. Depending on the date of birth of your child, that may

mean that you do not need to notify the government until they are beginning what would technically be grade 1 or grade 2 if they were enrolled in public or private school.

Some choose to notify the government beginning when their child is in kindergarten for a variety of reasons. You might want to have written confirmation of your choice to homeschool and have the sense of accountability brought by having to fill out and submit reports on your child's progress. You may wish to have access to the Computers for Schools program which enables you to get computers, laptops and other times free (these are typically older items near the end of their life cycle but can still be useful - see <http://www.cfsl.mb.ca/cim/1500.dhtm> for details). You may wish to be able to use the discounts at a few local stores that are available to homeschoolers once they have received their confirmation letter from the government.

On the other hand, you do not need to fill these out until your child is of compulsory school age, as set out above. Having less paperwork to worry about is a definite bonus. Being able to relax and focus on your child and not on completing whatever programs you listed on your notification form is another plus. Waiting to fill out the forms is perfectly acceptable and in no way an indicator that you are not doing your job as a parent or educator.

What if I am not sure what resources or curricula we will be using for certain, or all, subjects?

Please know that what you write down on the notification form is not necessarily going to be what you end up doing, even if you think you know right now what you will be using. Things change, kids change, not each kid in the same family can use the same curricula. So, if you are not sure then think what are some things we are planning to do and what are we going to use to accomplish this? Online resources, things from the library, things lying around your house, field trips and activities with other families – all these can be considered material for learning and you can include them in your plan.

And keep in mind that if you are unsure about how to plan science, for instance, a google search of 'science for 8 year olds' or 'biology for grade 9' will get you far. You also have access to curriculum that Manitoba schools have to follow, which is here: <http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/index.html>

The government's Department of Education has helpful information about planning your program and curriculum options here:

<http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/schools/ind/homeschool/notification.html>

Finally, take a look at the samples provided online by the government at the link above. You will see that they are not that detailed – and neither do yours need to be.

What if I am unschooling?

That's fine. You are still homeschooling. The form still needs to be filled out and submitted. In this case, your child will likely be a more active participant in filling out the forms than they might otherwise have been. Sit down and talk to them. Find out what they want to explore and figure out some ways in which you can do so. Maybe they want to use a workbook to cover math but want to do field studies on frogs and snakes for science and follow the U.S. Election for Social Studies and then do some sort of hybrid project involving cats living in a 19th century prairie town that combines some social studies, some science and an attempt to make a period movie about cats in 1889 in Virden, MB. Then they are going to blog their adventures with the proviso that before a blog post is published, they have given it a re-read and once every so often they submit a post to their editor – that might be you, or someone else – for comments. Or they have gotten obsessed with weapons and want to create their own armour and try jousting. Or they want to see how long they can play Pokemon Go for even when it gets to be winter here. Or they want to start a Youtube channel and make money. Or they want to practice baking so they can complete on the Great Canadian Bake-Off when it starts filming. There are lots of opportunities here to practice math (fractions, graphing, engineering) or language arts (creating videos, reading recipes, writing about their Pokemon adventures) or countless other things. Try to pick some of the things that you think your child will really want to pursue and include some information about those goals and the resources you will use on your notification form.

What happens after I have submitted my notification form?

If you submit it by email, you will typically get an acknowledgment of receipt within a day or two from the homeschooling office. You will then receive your official confirmation of enrollment of your child as a homeschooler within 3 to 6 weeks. This confirmation is a one page letter that has your child's name and grade listed on it and confirms that they are being homeschooled for the 2016-2017 year. At the bottom of the page is a card that can be used when you are requesting discounts from stores or when you first go to the Manitoba Education Library to borrow materials (they will need it to provide you with an official library card for that library).

And that's it folks – at least until January rolls around and we have to submit our first of two reports due each school year.

If you do have concerns about filling out the forms, we encourage you to contact the liaisons at the Manitoba Homeschooling Office. They are there to serve as a resource for you and can give you suggestions as to how to fill out your form or develop a plan. You can get in touch with your liaison by calling them from Winnipeg at 204-945-8138, toll free in Manitoba at 1-800-282-8069 ext. 8138 or

by emailing homeschooling@gov.mb.ca The liaisons are organized by geographic location so who you speak to will depend on where you live.

You can also contact MASH for assistance at info@manitobahomeschool.com and we would be happy to try to provide assistance in filling out your notification forms.

Edwina Shwedyk is hard pressed to believe that her kids will be in Grades 4 and 5 this coming year and that she will have to fill in her notification forms accordingly.

Tirzah Lyons

I am a former homeschooler (K-12) with a passion for music. I have a Bachelor of Music from CMU (2016) and an Elementary Piano Pedagogy Certificate from the RCM. I have a few years of experience teaching beginners and I am currently working on Intermediate Piano Pedagogy.

I offer private piano and theory lessons at my in-home studio in Charleswood (near Assiniboine Forest). For more information, contact me at:

204-889-4013
tlyons.music@gmail.com



Photo credit: Miriam Gebel

MASH Presents: MEETING THE CHALLENGE 2016!

It's that time of year again, where homeschool families are preparing for another (or their first) fun filled year of home education! And what better way to start off the year than to attend **MASH's 2nd Annual Homeschooling Conference: Meeting the Challenge 2016!**

In case you missed last year's conference, Homeschooling Kaleidoscope, which was held at the Royal Aviation Museum on October 3rd, 2015, here's a quick recap. It was an uplifting and fun filled day, which was kicked off with a Veteran Panel Q & A. The conference continued with workshops on various topics ranging from creating your own support group, a homeschool grad Q & A panel, and adventures in unschooling to hands on science. MASH's **Meeting the Challenge 2016** is sure to bring another motivating, entertaining and informative day.

Meeting the Challenge 2016 will take place on Saturday September 17th, 2016 at Bord Aire Community Centre (located at 471 Hampton Street, Winnipeg; just west of Polo Park). Join the MASH advisory team and members of your local homeschooling community starting at 9:30 am with Registration and Ice breakers. The kick off to the conference is back by popular demand! Bring your questions and have them answered by local homeschooling veterans. *The Veteran Q & A panel* with over 50 years of combined homeschooling experience, with experience in unschooling, school at home and everything in between, will speak about the challenges and rewards of their homeschooling adventures and answer any questions you may have.

There is something for everyone at this year's conference, whether you consider yourself an unschooler, a classic homeschooler, or if you feel you fall somewhere in between. Some of the workshops planned for this year include;

- *How to Create a Transcript and Build a Portfolio for your homeschool graduate*; Join Jennifer Gehman, as she walks you through creating transcripts and building portfolios that are needed by Universities and local Colleges.
- *Constructing Knowledge*; With emphasis placed on creative expression, iterative design, collaboration, and hard fun - maker education is well equipped to meet the curricular and so-called "real world" expectations our students face. This talk will include hands-on and minds-on activities to enhance your appreciation of learning through making. You will leave this session with the theoretical rationale to implement the principles of maker education as well

as practical activities you can adapt and apply for your individual needs.

- *Gender and Learning Differences*; Join Rachael in exploring the differences in the way humans (young and old) learn.
- *Self Care for the Care Giver*; being a homeschooling parent is rewarding but often tough and exhausting, Join Linda, an Occupational Therapist and homeschooling mom, in this workshop that highlights the importance of your own self-care.

Meeting the Challenge will end the day with the much requested, sure to inspire, *Homeschool Graduate Open Panel*. Meet a panel of homeschool graduates who are pursuing their post-secondary education and careers after having completed a homeschool education. Find out their insights as they reflect on the ins and outs of their alternative educations.

Tickets are available now on the MASH website,
<http://manitobahomeschool.com/2016/o8/mash-homeschool-conference-meeting-the-challenge/>

EARLY BIRD TICKETS UNTIL AUGUST 27, 2016: Individual tickets \$30 each and couple's tickets for married and common-law partners \$40 for two

REGULAR PRICE AFTER AUGUST 27, 2016: Individual Tickets \$40 each and couple's tickets for married and common-law partners \$50 for two.

If digital payment is a concern, please contact MASH at info@manitobahomeschool.com for assistance.

Email address changing?

If your e-mail address changes please make sure you let us know so that you can keep getting the MASH newsletter and MASH e-news.





Programs for Home Schooled Children & Youth

- Youth Choir
- Concert Band
- Woodwind Ensemble

Wednesday Mornings:
Kinderstring Violin for 4-6 Years

Music Time!
Parent & Child 0-3 Years

Individual Music Lessons Available Daytime & Evening In:
Piano, Voice, Saxophone, Flute, Clarinet, Violin & more!

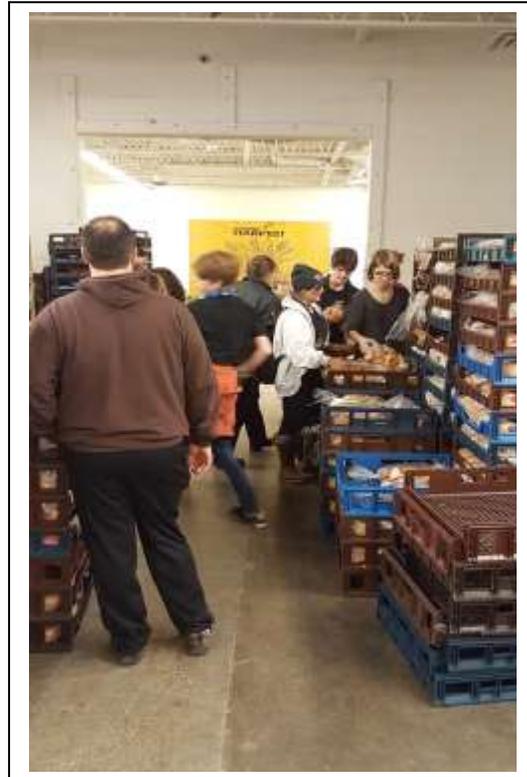
Quality Music Education For All Ages!

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Phone: 204 612 -9012 **Email:** wcm.adm@gmail.com **Website:** www.wcmus.com

MASH Teen Group

In November of 2015, a group of teens met to create the MASH Teen Group. We met, got to know each other a bit and brainstormed what we would do in the following year, from movie nights to art classes. We decided volunteering in the community was a good starting point. So, on January 4th, we went to volunteer at Winnipeg Harvest sorting baked goods such as bread, muffins, and cakes; we all enjoyed the experience so much we returned to Winnipeg Harvest again on February 26th, this time sorting potatoes, and onions! January also brought us cold snowy weather, so we decided to embrace the Manitoba winter with an evening at Assiniboine Park, sledding and skating. In February, we took part in art workshops over three weeks, one week learning about sketching, the next week learning

how to work with pastels and on the last week learning how to work with water colours; February was a busy month as we, along with our families went on a sleigh ride in Birds Hill Park. The sleigh ride was so much fun, we are hoping to make it an annual event!



The spring brought us a trip to the Manitoba Museum, and not one.....but two trips to Wheelies. The teen group ended the "school year" with an evening at Assiniboine Park at the Nature Playground, where we all hung out together by the fire roasting hot dogs and marshmallows.

Teen group will be starting up in September, with more fun activities; currently in various planning stages are more volunteer opportunities, the 2nd annual sleigh ride, field trips, an art show, and (the event that I am probably most excited for....) a teen/family dance and grad event!

The teen group is open to all homeschooled teens (ages 12 and up). If you are interested in finding out more information, or would like to join the teen group please contact <mailto:info@manitobahomeschool.com> or join (parents and teens welcome) our Teen Group Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/555809101261597/>

Frustrating Thoughts about Homeschooling and the Education Library

Every mother knows what it's like to get swept up into a rant against the insensitivity and immaturity of our children. I try not to. I try to be calm, cool, collected and compassionate, but we all know that there are things our children do that cause us to stare wide eyed and gob-smacked, ready to launch off into a missive about the civil way that things in life are supposed to work.

I didn't expect to feel the same way when we at MASH were informed that the Department of Education Library would be limiting homeschooler access to the collection because there were **thousands of dollars' worth of books that had not been returned by homeschooling families!** After much frustration and concern, the library has chosen to limit the number of books and resources a homeschooling family can borrow to 10 items at a time.

I didn't even know what to say. I knew that the library has struggled for years with homeschoolers and overdue books. As the library is a government organization designed only to be used internally by government departments, schools and school boards, it does not have a monetary collection system in place, thus overdue fees are not charged, and the library has no way to "collect" books that are not returned.

The library provides access to homeschoolers as a courtesy. There is no policy requiring that homeschoolers be allowed access, merely the generosity of a department to assist us with our educational decision to school at home.

Those families that have borrowed thousands of dollars' worth of books and not returned them have stolen them from the collection (so that none of us can benefit from them), stolen them from the government (meaning they stole from my taxpayer pocket) and stolen from the homeschooling community (because we are now suffering the consequences of their insensitivity.)

I think we sometimes need to be reminded that homeschoolers are a minority here. We are a minority that is allowed to choose our educational style because of the graces of the majority. As a small community, we each represent the whole. To members of the public, my family represents all homeschoolers when my children play roughly at the park and scare the preschoolers during daytime school hours. My family represents all homeschoolers when they return damaged library books. My family represents all homeschoolers when we rudely tell tour guides at field trips that they are wrong (even if they are).

My family represents all homeschoolers and yours does too.

Some families that saw fit to borrow and not return thousands of dollars' worth of books now represent all homeschoolers. And that makes me both mad and sad.

So please try to remember that we are all in this together, that homeschooling is a small community and that we need to look out for each other and take care of each other.

And we need to return our books to the library. Hopefully, on time.

Jennifer Gehman is a homeschooling parent and heavily addicted bibliophile. She depends heavily on the public libraries in her community and looks forward to continuing to do so.

Manitoba Education Resource Library – Ten Things You Need to Know

Following on the heels of this distressing news from the resource library, it seemed fitting to reprint the article that Tammy Sutherland wrote when a group from MASH was given a tour of the library the past winter. Here is her list of why the resource library is a great tool for homeschoolers – and I guess that we now need note that the eleventh thing you need to know is this: you can only take out 10 books at a time as a homeschooling family.

1. **It's big.** I somehow pictured it as a small basement room at the back of a windowless office building. I was pleasantly surprised to find that it's not what I expected. It's quite inviting, actually. It would be similar in size to any branch of the Winnipeg Public Library system, other than the Millennium, of course.
2. **Children are welcome.** One mom had been avoiding a visit because she thought it would entail getting childcare and coming alone. Nope. Bring your kids, from toddlers to teens. There's something for everyone – even a tiny tot play area. During school hours, the facility is not super busy. There are numerous computer stations, sitting areas and tables with chairs so you can read and work on site.
3. **You can get a membership card and sign out the resources at no cost.** Any homeschooling family that has notified the province and received an id number can sign up and receive a library card to use immediately. Just head down for a visit and starting checking out the resources.
4. It's not just books. Books are wonderful of course, and there are plenty of them, but **what make this library unique is the range of resources available:** CDs, DVDs, games, kits, models, puppets, posters, etc. On our first visit we checked out a number of Dr. Noggins fact card games and another game about fractions. I saw one family leaving with a huge

electricity set. From math manipulatives to collections of insects preserved in resin, this library has something to appeal to every interest and educational goal.

1. Your 6 year old wants to learn more about the rainforest? Your 10 year old needs info on catapults? Their staff will help you find what you exactly what you need. They will prepare a package of resources for you according to your specific needs; [you simply need to call or email your request](#). Just let them know the subject matter you want to learn more about and the ages of the children involved, and **they will put together a package of learning resources specially picked for you**. Wow! If you live in Winnipeg, you just need to drop by and pick up your package when it's ready. Sounds like Christmas all year round!
2. **You live outside of Winnipeg?** Have no fear! Library staff will mail your package out to you, AT NO COST. And you can mail it back AT NO COST! What?! Just submit your request as described in #5 and you can access the library from wherever you are located in the province. Wow again.
3. **Many of the library's resources are online.** Highlights of the many digital resources include three collections of eBooks, many audiobooks, access to CBC's Curio (CBC TV and radio programs and News in Review 1990-2015), a link to the NFB's extensive film collection, Canada: A People's History, and other streaming videos sites. Just [register for your online account](#) to get a username and password.
4. Copies of **MB's distance education curriculum for grades 9-12** are available as reference material at the library. If you're considering using this independent study curriculum with your teen but want to check it out before committing, you're welcome to drop by the library and review it on site.
5. Interested in knowing what's being covered in the **MB school curriculum** for each grade level and subject? All the info you need is available at the library; just ask a staff person to point you in the right direction. The [My Child in School website](#) is another good resource for understanding what children are learning at each grade level in the public school system.
6. And now, for the most frequently asked question: **IS THERE PARKING?** There is free one hour parking on streets right around the library and there is a paid parking lot right next door. There's also great bus service on Portage and poles to lock your bikes to!

The [Manitoba Education Resource Library](#) awaits your visit:

Location: Main Floor, 1181 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB

Hours: Monday to Friday: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Saturday: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Sunday: Closed



birth roots

DONA Birth Doula Training
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The image is a promotional flyer for 'birth roots'. It features a maroon background with a white and green border. On the left, there is a photograph of a person's hands gently holding a white, rounded object, possibly a baby or a piece of fabric. The text is centered and includes the company name, a list of services, and contact information.

Looking for a Homeschool Mentor?

MASH has a variety of homeschooling parents who are willing to chat by email or phone with other homeschooling parents or people who are considering homeschooling. Please check out our homeschooling mentors on our webpage at [here](#).

Considerations when Raising Bilinguals

Most people believe that bilingualism is an asset. Parents think that if their children can communicate in more than one language, this will give them a leg up in the world. Because these ideas is generally accepted, they will not be explored in this article.

The question we will explore, however, is: what should we consider when planning how to support our children's learning of an additional language?

Throughout this article, I talk about two "parents" interacting with children. However, the people using diverse languages with our children may not be parents; we know that the adult language users may be grandparents, caregivers or friends. They can be anyone who your children spend time with regularly.

This article provides some considerations for parents who are already supporting their children's language development and ideas for those beginning this journey. The article is divided into three perspectives which refer to the language use of parents.

Each parent speaks a different mother tongues (L1s).

The first perspective is that of families which have parents who speak different first languages/ mother tongues (L1).

From the beginning, from birth or earlier, it is recommended that these parents speak their own first languages when communicating with the child. If this routine is in place, the child will not question it. The child will accept that, for example, "Mom always speaks with me in English, and Dad always speaks with me in Tamil". If a child has this exposure from the very beginning, the child will "acquire" the two languages naturally. If parents wait until the child is 5 or 6 years old, it will take more effort and motivation from the child, and the child will be "learning" as opposed to naturally developing/ acquiring the language. The ideal time to begin learning two languages is between the ages of birth and 2 years old.

It is important to understand that 'even bilingualism' is rare in childhood. Usually there is a dominant language of the two which the child is using at home. The dominant language is the one which is spoken and used more in the home; it is the language used by the parent who spends the most time with the children. In our home, I am the primary homeschooler and my spouse works full time. He is away from home from about 7:45am to 5:45pm from Monday to Friday. This means the children have more exposure and experience with my L1.

In order to avoid having this dominant language take over completely, parents should count the

number of hours that the child is awake during the week. 30% of those hours should be spent with exposure to or in communication with the minority language. If this 30-70 percentage is in place, then the child can grow up to be an 'even bilingual'. If less than 30% of waking time is for the minority language, then the child may be able to understand the language but the level of communicative ability of the child in the future is uncertain.

Parents should not get nervous, however, if their toddler is a late speaker of any language. It is normal for children being exposed to two or more languages to begin to speak later (but often bilingual youngsters are early readers). Also, we should not worry if the child interchanges languages. It takes children a bit of time to understand, for instance, that there are two ways to say "milk" and to sort out which word is for which parent.

Parents often get concerned when their school-aged children respond to the minority language with the dominant one. For example, sometimes when spoken to in Tamil, our son responds in English. This should not change how the adults communicate. It does not matter in which language the response is. The child is understanding the L2. She may not want to respond in it because of motivation related to the status of this language, the fact that her friends don't use that language or because it is sometimes easier to use the dominant language. However, as many newcomers to Canada will tell you, by the time that child is 18 years old, she will be thanking us for that input and she will be able to function in that language and be bilingual.



It is normal for the L2 to not be mastered in childhood. As they grow, children may switch back and forth between languages, may not respond at all in the minority language and may have misunderstandings of cultural nuances (e.g. terms of respect). However, they will understand what is

being said to them and, as mentioned, will be fine by their late teens.

Both parents speak the same L1, but one also speaks an addition language (L2) and would like to give this language to the children.

It is no problem at all for an L2 speaking parent to communicate with the child in that language, and all of the ideas in the previous section should be considered in this case.

Sometimes at the beginning, a parent feels awkward speaking her L2 with her child. However, if the parent sticks with it, it will become natural and normal.

The speaker of the minority language in the home needs to be confident speaking that language and confident with the choice to do so with the children. These families should ignore the naysayers they may come across. There are people who will tell us that this is not the way to raise a child and that the child will not learn the L2 properly. If this is what the parents want, they should stick with it; the child will grow up to be bilingual.

Some parents in this situation worry because they do not have perfect grammar or their accent is affected by their first language. They should try to not fall into the trap of perfectionism; even people who speak that language as their L1 are not perfect speakers. The goal should be to help the child understand and communicate in the language; “polishing” the language can come later.

Having said that, we can also consider giving the child other input in the language. Parents can find speakers of the language to spend time with the children, perhaps friends or babysitters. They can watch videos and listen to music in the language with the child. It is also recommended to read and sing songs in the L2. These will give the child more diverse exposures to the language.

As the child grows, the parent’s own L2 language will improve too, and the parent can consider taking language classes along the way as well.

Neither parent speaks the L2, but they want to have the children take L2 classes.

It is wonderful for children of any age to learn a new language. This not only gives children some language which may be useful when speaking with people of the L2 background and when travelling, but it also helps the children see themselves as language learners and speakers of multiple languages. Children will likely develop a positive attitude towards diverse languages and cultures which will help their confidence and motivation when studying languages in the future.

Parents in this situation can register the child in an L2 class and to even learn the L2 alongside the child. Parents can seek out playgroups and babysitters who use the target language. Families can also share books and movies in the L2. The Millennium Library has an amazing selection of bilingual books and books written in languages other than English.

Finito

Whatever your context, exposing your children to diverse languages and cultures is a gift.

Children and adults of any age can learn a new language. All that is needed is motivation, time and the self-confidence to know that you can do it. The rest falls into place after that.

Rachael Fecyk-Lamb started her additional language learning journey as a late French immersion student. She has taught languages (English, Spanish and French) and how to teach languages in five countries, and she currently teaches teachers how to teach English as an Additional Language (EAL/ESL) at the University of Manitoba. Her research has included work on understanding how languages are acquired and learned. Rachael's current passion is raising her son to be a multilingual global citizen. Rachael would be more than happy to chat about language learning and language use, and to hear about how other homeschoolers are approaching bilingualism in their homes. You can reach her through the MASH Advisory Team Board.



Homeschool Gym and Swim Program at the University of Manitoba

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: September 12, 2016 (12:00pm)

Wednesdays September 28 – November 30, 2016 (10 weeks)

Phys Ed Program (1-1:55pm) (\$50.00) – ages 6-12 will participate in PE activities such as, but not limited to: archery, racquetball, walleyball, lacrosse & other games

Swimming Programs

I Can Swim (2:00-3:00pm) (\$100.00) – ages 6-12 years

Tots (1:00-1:30pm) (\$78.00) – ages 3-5 years

Tots (1:30-2:00pm) (\$78.00) – ages 3-5 years

Swim Fit (1:00-2:00pm) (\$121.00) – improve endurance and technique for ages 11-16 years

Name of Individuals Coordinating the Event: Ashley Gagnon and Drew Sheffield – Mini U Programs

Download 2016 Fall Swim-Gym Waiver by going to our [webpage](#) and submit with payment to Drew Sheffield at the U of M not later than September 12 by:

Email: Drew.Sheffield@umanitoba.ca

Phone: 204-480-1458

Fax: 204-474-7503

Mail or Hand Delivery: 145 Frank Kennedy Centre. The University of Manitoba. Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3T 2N2