

Lullabies Lesson
(developed by teachers at a Tower Hamlets primary school)

See powerpoint for visuals

Based on the ESRC-funded research project:

**Developing bilingual learning strategies in mainstream and
community contexts**

**Charmian Kenner, Eve Gregory, Mahera Ruby and Salman Al-
Azami (2006-07)**

Lullabies Lesson (see visuals on powerpoint)

Introduction:

Discuss the importance of collaboration when working in groups. Talk about the different languages spoken and explain that during this lesson that the children can use both English and Bangla. Discuss the importance of including all children in the lesson. How can children/adults be included if they do not speak Bangla?

Introduce the theme of lullabies. Ask the chn if they know any lullabies in English? Bangla? Other languages? What features do lullabies have? What is the purpose? When might you hear them?

Whole Class:

Introduce Ai Ai Chad Mama. Read the poem in Bangla. Have the chn heard this poem before? Ask them to talk about the poem in pairs. What is it about? Where have they heard it? Ask chn to explain the poem to non Bangla speakers.

Give the chn the translation of the poem. Explain that when translating, there can be more than one interpretation. Children read the transliterated version in small groups and compare it to the translation.

Activity:

Ask the chn to work in pairs to write questions about the poem that they could ask to someone older. Explain that the questions can be in English, Bangla or a mix of the two. Chn share their answers to the class and explain some of the questions they have come up with in English.

Why is...?

Who is...?

Why does the poet use the word...?

What does... mean?

Whole Class:

Introduce Hush Little Baby. Read the poem as a class. Have they heard this poem before? Ask them to talk about the poem in pairs. What is it about? How is it similar/different from Ai Ai Chad Mama?

Activity:

Chn work in groups to create Venn Diagrams that show the differences and similarities between Ai Ai Chad Mama and Hush Little Baby.

Ask groups to present their ideas to the class.

Plenary:

Children discuss how they felt using two languages in a lesson.

It made me feel...

It helped me because...

When I use English...

When I use Bangla...

I think...

I found... because...

When we began the lesson...

At the end of the lesson...