RAISING BILINGUAL CHILDREN:

USING GRANDPARENTS AND OTHER RESOURCES TO SUPPORT LANGUAGE LEARNING AND MAINTENANCE

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RUMACC Seminar 2015
1. Talking Points

- What is your language plan?
- Who can help?
- What support resources are available, and where?
- What things can you do?
- Issues
2. A family language plan

- The target language/s
  - Speaking and writing
  - Speaking
  - Understanding
  - Awareness
3. Parental motivation

- Child-focused
  - Cognitive, academic, social, economic opportunities

- Mutually-oriented
  - Family communication, relationships, heritage

- Self-centred
  - Language needs, self-image
4. Home network support

- Grandparents
- Aunts, uncles, cousins
- Neighbours
- Friends

- Family events
5. Community support

- Playgroups
- Libraries
- Community centres
- Community schools
- Community clubs
  - Community events
- Media and internet
6. What you can make yourself

- Flashcards
- Books
- Games
- Puzzles
- Decorations
7. RUMACCC
8. Oma Online

Die Ente

Winnies Bruder

Mein Hund
9. Alex and Oma

- The Donkey
- Where is the ear?
- Where is the tail?
10. Alex and Oma

- Where is Winnie?
- At the fence?
- In the tree?
- Behind the bush?
11. A family event
12. Using the internet

- Skype
- Songs
- Stories
- Shows
13. The Nuki Song
14. Rosa the Elephant

Rosa Goes to the City: Learn Hindi with subtitles - Story for Children "BookBox.com"
15. Poppy Cat
16. Issues

- Nobody else wants/is around to help
- I don’t have access to equipment

- Evaluate your language plan
  - Adjust expectations and strategies

- Do the best you can with what you know and have!
17. What’s in it for the parents and grandparents?

- **Commitment**
  - A change of habit
  - Planning

- A special relationship with their (grand)children

- Personal enjoyment and satisfaction
18. What’s in it for all concerned?

- Enhanced language experience
  - Speaking and listening
  - Reading and writing
- Family and community bonding
- Heritage transmission
- Valuing the language
- A fun activity for all!
19. P.S.

- I don’t think I realized what a great thing they did for me at the time. I thought it was a great pain in the neck and a chore and it stopped me from going out playing, but in retrospect, having now learnt other foreign languages the hard way at high school, I’m very thankful that they did it. […]

- Perhaps because I did grow up in a bilingual household I have more empathy for people who are foreigners, who can’t express themselves […] I just love that whole connection thing, it’s, yeh, just a people connection that I love about it.
20. Workshop: Multilingual Booklet

- Write a text for your picture in your language.
- Read out in sequence.
21. Over to you...