



BALID

British Association for
Literacy in Development

**Schooling and Family Literacy:
The role of parents in supporting mother tongue-based
multilingual education programmes**

Speakers:

Barbara Graham

(SIL Mother Tongue Education Specialist, Kenya)

Karla Smith

(SIL Senior Literacy and Education Consultant, Malaysia)

Catherine Young

(SIL Senior Literacy and Education Consultant, Philippines)

Tuesday 15th May 2012

4.00 – 5.45 pm

The Wycliffe Centre,

Horsleys Green, High Wycombe, Bucks HP14 3XL

The principle that parents play an important role in supporting the education of their children is well established. However, the practical realisation of this faces considerable challenges in multilingual contexts in the global South where parents have received little education and do not speak or understand well the language in which their children are taught at school. How can parents in these contexts be empowered to support the schooling of their children? How can they be involved in the development of culturally appropriate school curricula to ensure that community values are not marginalised?

This meeting offers a rare opportunity to draw on the experience of three SIL multilingual education specialists working in diverse contexts in Africa and Asia.

See over for more information

Dr Barbara Graham gained extensive experience of primary and adult education in the UK before joining SIL and beginning work in Kenya in 2001 as a Multilingual Education Specialist.

She will discuss efforts to involve parents and other members of the community in the literacy development of children in early primary school in Kenya, and consider possible ways forward to enhance this involvement.

Dr Karla Smith has experience of teaching at all levels of education from pre-school to university, accompanied by considerable experience of educational development work in Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam.

Her presentation will focus on the pre-school heritage language programmes in Sarawak and Sabah, East Malaysia.

Dr. Catherine Young works with LEAD (Language, Education and Development) Asia, a unit of SIL International based in the Philippines, supporting minority ethnolinguistic communities, NGO's and governments as they plan, implement and evaluate mother tongue-based multilingual education. She has consulted with SEAMEO, UNESCO and Save the Children on multilingual education. Her publications include journal articles and book chapters on multilingual education in the formal and non-formal sectors for learners from non-dominant language communities.

Her presentation will focus on how involving parents and other community members in the development of curriculum and materials for community-based language and education programmes enables children to access formal education while ensuring that community values and identity are affirmed. She will make particular reference to education projects in Bangladesh.

Travel:

The Wycliffe Centre is located close to the A40, approximately 6 miles north west of High Wycombe and 2 miles south east of M40 Junction 5.

By car: From Junction 5, take the A40 towards Stokenchurch. After two miles, turn right at the junction in Studley Green signposted to Horsleys Green. The Wycliffe Centre is then 300 yards on the left.

By train: Take the Chiltern Rail service leaving London Marylebone at 15.07 and arriving at High Wycombe at 15.31, or the service leaving Birmingham Moor Street at 13.55 and arriving at High Wycombe at 15.30. Transport to the Wycliffe Centre (and return to the station) can be provided by prior arrangement.

A light meal will be available in the refectory after the meeting if booked in advance. Price £4.50.

If you would like to attend, RSVP to Ian Cheffy (ian_cheffy@sil.org) no later than Friday 11th May, indicating also if you would like transport from the station and/or a light meal. There is no charge for the meeting.

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