

# Teaching Nazli in Turkish and English

**Mim Kemal Okè**

Istanbul, Turkey

A letter from Nazli's father

Nazli



Now about Nazli. Nazli is almost ten and is now going to a mainstream school called ENKA in Istanbul, Turkey. The school is partially run by Americans, based on multiple intelligences and the Berkeley GEMS programme.

Nazli is the only child with Down syndrome in the class, but although there is a special instructor for her at school this year she has integrated herself fully with the rest of the class. Nazli is now in the third year and we have no specific problems in her development. She is taking ballet and piano lessons and she's quite a girl indeed. She is trying to speak English full sentences at home.

Nazli knew how to read and write before she went to school. As a matter of fact she started to read when she was 3½.

Nazli was 1 year old when we visited The Sarah Duffen Centre in the UK and Sue and Gillian showed us the flash cards. Thanks to you we learned how to teach her to read. With the material you gave us we started first of all with flash cards, Makaton and Portage at home. Of course we adapted them to Turkish. When she was 3½, she could use short sentences; we started to practise with non picture sentences. Her pronunciation and grammar have always been exceptionally good. She is talkative at home but she improved at school. She refuses to speak on the phone and says "I cannot see them father".

With respect to second language: Nazli went to a mixed prepschool run by an English lady where she started to get used to hearing English. ENKA is a bilingual school and Nazli loves reading the Ladybird series. Again we taught her English by using the same Buckley method, i.e. using flash cards, but this time they were in English. Now she can make sentences in English.

We love her and we are ever so grateful to you.

| Name: Nazli Hilal Okè  |   | Date: 29 Dec 2000  |  | Class: Eco Endat Gececek |   |
|--|---|--|--|--------------------------|---|
| Grade 3 ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING  |   |  |  |                          |   |
|  | Beginning   | Intermediate   | Reading  |                          |   |
| READING  | Shows an interest in English books, stories, and poems.                               | Can finger point and follow a text. Reads some words and phrases.  | Can read captions and simple stories in English.   | ✓                        |   |
| WRITING  | Can copy letters, words, and simple captions.   | Can write some basic words from memory. Can construct simple sentences with help.                        | Can construct a short story independently.   |                          | ✓ |
| SPEAKING   | Can use some English vocabulary, such as colours, numbers, and animals.               | Able to use short phrases connected to some vocabulary, such as I like I don't like, I can, She is, etc. | Can understand simple questions, add a simple story, respond to instructions with understanding.               |                          | ✓ |
| LISTENING  | Can listen and attend to a story or simple instructions in English for a few minutes. | Can listen and respond to stories and poems and simple instructions for 10 minutes.                      | Can concentrate and respond appropriately to questions and maintain focus for a lesson for 10 minutes or more. |                          | ✓ |
| Social Skills: Doesn't display confidence in social situations.  |   |  | Attitude: Respectful, eager to learn.  |                          |   |
| Strengths: Good at learning English.   |   |  | Personal Challenges: Struggles to participate in class independently, i.e. without support.                    |                          |   |
| Parent Comments:   |   |  |  |                          |   |
| Name: <i>ESL Okè</i>   |   |  |  | Date: 29/12/2000         |   |
| Bu formun parantezlerindeki ifadeleri doğruya işaretleyiniz. Diğer boşlukları doldurmak formun diğer bölümlerine aittir. |   |  |  |                          |   |