**EAL RESOURCES FOR NEWLY-ARRIVED REFUGEES FROM SYRIA**

The official language spoken in Syria is Arabic. However, there is also Kurdish (in its Kurmanji form) which is spoken in the Kurdish regions of the country. Other languages used by minorities in the country would include Armenian and Syrian Turkmen (South Azeri dialect of Turkish). Many educated Syrians also speak French, English and other European languages.

There are a number of useful resources available at Brown’s Books [www.brownsbfs.co.uk](http://www.brownsbfs.co.uk) which would be suitable for refugee children learning English. A selection is included below:

DUAL LANGUAGE DICTIONARIES

Pupils in upper primary and secondary would benefit from access to a dual language dictionary:

**Oxford essential Arabic dictionary: English-Arabic, Arabic-English** Oxford University Press

ISBN/EAN

019956115X / 9780199561155

<http://www.brownsbfs.co.uk/Product/Oxford-essential-Arabic-dictionary---English-Arabic-Arabic-English/9780199561155>

£7.74

Younger pupils (5-10 years) who are new to English would benefit from a dictionary which makes use of visual aids:

# Children's illustrated Arabic dictionary: Arabic-English/English-Arabic Hippocrene Books

# ISBN/EAN

# 078180891X / 9780781808910

# <http://www.brownsbfs.co.uk/Product/Childrens-illustrated-Arabic-dictionary---Arabic-EnglishEnglish-Arabic/9780781808910>

£9.69

PICTURE DICTIONARIES

A title (for which there are optional activity books available) which is useful as a vocabulary building tool for young children (3-7 years), and includes an audio CD of songs and rhymes to aid pronunciation, is:

# Collins First English Words : learn English with Daisy, Ben and Keekee! Collins

# ISBN/EAN

# 0007431570 / 9780007431571

# <http://www.brownsbfs.co.uk/Product/First-English-words---learn-English-with-Daisy-Ben-and-Keekee/9780007431571>

# £9.29

# An effective way to learn first words in English using the ‘look, cover and speak’ technique for ages 4+ is ‘Hide and Speak English’:

# Hide and Speak English B Small Publishing

# ISBN/EAN

# 1902915747 / 9781902915746

# <http://www.brownsbfs.co.uk/Product/Bruzzone-Catherine/Hide-and-speak-English/9781902915746>

# £4.64

# DUAL LANGUAGE PICTURE BOOKS

# A way of involving parents would be through using dual language picture books, such as the following which are available from [www.mantralingua.com](http://www.mantralingua.com) and [www.little-linguist.co.uk](http://www.little-linguist.co.uk).

# *Early Years*

# The following titles are simple board books which teach first concepts in English and Arabic, with images labelled in both languages:

# My First Bilingual Books

# Animals (Arabic) Code 4594

# Colours (Arabic) Code 4251

# Numbers (Arabic) Code 4262

# These texts are available from <http://www.little-linguist.co.uk/arabic-books-for-children.html>

# Available in English with a range of other languages, including Arabic/Kurdish, another title which uses rhyme and repetition to help in recognising colours and naming animals and which would be suitable for children from ages 3-6 is:

# Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see? By Bill Martin Jr. (English and Arabic OR English and Kurdish)

# Code: 3734 (Arabic)

# Code: 1985 (Kurdish)

# [www.little-linguist.co.uk](http://www.little-linguist.co.uk)

# £8.50

# Another title for age 3-7 which uses English and Arabic, and which would perhaps help to involve parents in reading to their children, is:

# The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle (English and Arabic)

# ISBN

# 9781852691240

# <http://uk.mantralingua.com/products/hungry-caterpillar-arabic-and-english>

# £8.50

# *Ages 4-9*

# A book which explores the religious duties that occur during the holy month of Ramadan is:

# Samira’s Eid by Nasreen Aktar (English only)

# ISBN

# 9781846116582

# <http://uk.mantralingua.com/products/samiras-eid-english-only>

# £9.50

# A popular picture story book which has full text in Arabic only is:

# The Gruffalo by Julie Donaldson

# Code 4322 (Arabic only)

# [www.little-liguist.co.uk](http://www.little-liguist.co.uk)

# £5.95

# A text which explores a magical journey through the rich artistic heritage of Islamic civilisation is (available in Arabic and Kurdish):

# Journey Through Islamic Art by Na’ima bint Robert (English and Arabic)

# ISBN

# 9781844443338

# <http://uk.mantralingua.com/products/journey-through-islamic-art-english-and-arabic>

# £9.50

# *Ages 9-13*

# Journey Through Islamic Art by Na’ima bint Robert (English and Kurdish)

# ISBN

9781844444397

<http://uk.mantralingua.com/products/journey-through-islamic-art-english-and-kurdish>

# £9.50

# *Ages 9-13*

# A dual language book which explores a young girl’s experience of bullying is:

# Ellie’s Secret Diary by Henriette Barkow (English and Arabic)

# ISBN/EAN

# 1846116872 / 9781846116872

# <http://uk.mantralingua.com/products/ellies-secret-diary-english-and-arabic-0>

# £7.36

# A dual language text which can be used with Mantralingua’s TalkingPEN is:

# The Children of Lir by Dawn Casey (English and Arabic)

# ISBN

# 9781852698720

# <http://uk.mantralingua.com/products/children-lir-english-and-arabic>

# £9.50

# CD-ROM / MULTIMEDIA

# The Little Linguist catalogue also contains a CD-ROM which can be purchased with or without an accompanying textbook. The resource is a bilingual visual dictionary which teaches 1,300 useful, everyday words in a fun way and allows pupils to play games and listen to the words in both English and Arabic.

# Code 4323 (Arabic/English)

# CD-ROM only £12.49

# Book with CD-ROM £24.99

# <http://www.little-linguist.co.uk/arabic-songs-for-children/bilingual-visual-dictionary-cd-rom-arabic-english.html>

# Many of the texts available from Mantralingua have audio files available on FREElink which is a resource making use of Mantralingua’s Talking PEN device or PENpal. PENpal is a device that plays back audio from paper books, posters. There are over 900 free dual language audio files that you can download onto your PENpal. This enables children to listen to the text in books while they read. A demo of how to download these resources is available online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcW2ckCGfXs>

# MANTRALINGUA’S TALKING PEN RESOURCE

# If you choose to invest in Mantralingua’s TalkingPEN, this would be a way of building EAL resources for new arrivals. Providing stories in a language that is familiar, as well as being introduced to English, is a great way of easing an EAL pupil into language learning.

# A PENpal starter pack is available at <http://uk.mantralingua.com/products/language-starter-packs-ks2-polish>.

# If a Polish starter pack is ordered for £110, other texts in a wide range of different languages (including Arabic) can be purchased from the company’s sound enabled range. However, once you are familiar with how to use the device and know how to make use of the recordable stickers which are also available, you can record audio to go along with any book, which makes any book interactive - and possibly dual language if a native speaker is available to record in the desired home language.