



Parents asked to help children speak local dialects

FROM GRACE SENAM KLAY, HO

THE World Vision Education Technical Programme Manager, Mr Andrew Ofosu Dankyi, has urged parents to play key roles in the development of the mother language, among their children.

He reminded parents that they are responsible to teach children how to speak their local dialects.

Mr Dankyi made the call at the International Mother Language Day celebration at Ho, last Friday, on the theme: "Indigenous languages matters for development, peace building and reconciliation".

He urged parents not to feel shy to speak local dialects to their children rather than speak English with the children at home.

Mr Dankyi said "if a child is not able to read or speak his or her local language, he or she would lose his culture, which makes him or her the Ghanaian child. So every child should at least learn one local language properly".

He called for training of teachers in the local languages, adding that, incentives should be given to teacher trainees interested in learning these languages.

Madam Irene Jackqueline Attabra, the Krachi West District Director of Education, revealed that the Ghana Education Service (GES) in collaboration with World Vision was implementing quarterly reading festivals in municipalities and district which promote reading in the local language.

There was a panel discussion on the theme to solicit ideas on how to promote local dialects, and the panellist encouraged that the parents, stakeholders and educational institutions should use the mother tongue in communication to children at all times.

The International Mother Language Day celebration marked on February 21 was inaugurated by United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) on November 17, 1999, and it was first observed on February 21, 2000.

This year's celebration was organised by Friends of Promise together with World Vision and partnered by the GES and Ghana Journalists' Association.