

Top tips for parents of language learners

- Support your child in finding out about other languages, countries and cultures.
- Try to link your child's learning to something they are interested in. For example:
 - Play computer games in German
 - Listen to some Spanish music
 - Follow a French cooking recipe
 - Look at some Italian fashion magazines.
- Learn with/alongside your child. Find out whether their school offers classes for parents, or look up local evening classes, online lessons, private tuition, or self-learning opportunities.
- Dedicate a particular time each week – e.g. one dinner time – where everyone must speak in the foreign language being studied.
- Read books or watch films that your child is already familiar with in English in a foreign language – e.g. Harry Potter or Pirates of the Caribbean.
- Label items around the house in the foreign language to aid your child's memory and get them used to day-to-day things. You can vary this and increase the difficulty by swapping the labels around and asking your child to match them to the correct item.
- If your child has a mobile phone, games console, MP3 player etc, switch the settings to the language they are studying.
- Shop for products in other languages. Ask your child to identify the product and use the vocabulary of the language they are studying.
- Encourage your child to use the Internet (at home, school, or in a public library) to practice their vocabulary and find out information about other countries. Many games can be found online in a variety of languages and these can help with vocabulary and confidence-building.
- Find out whether your child's school runs an exchange or pen-pal scheme with schools in other countries. Pen-pals and e-pals can also be found online.
- Keep an eye on the Internet/press for details about local events you could take your child to, such as French markets, European days, food festivals etc. Ask them to spot as many foreign words as they can. If they don't know what a word means, encourage them to look it up when they get home.