

Top tips for parents of language learners

- Support your child in finding out about other languages, countries and cultures. Visit your local library and explore books on other countries and cultures.
- Make a scrap book with information about their target language country/ies. Visit a travel agency to collect brochures with pictures they can use.
- 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 or 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.
- Ask your child to teach a family member or friend something they have learnt in the language they are studying.
- 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. YouTube has a range of Peppa Pig programs in different languages.
- 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.
- 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.
- Find out which famous people come from their target language country. Create fact files about them in the target language.