



Ideas for parents and families

Parents as Partners: Ways to support your child in their language learning

Activity	Suggested timeframe	Description
 Suitable for younger learners <u>Counting fun</u>	5 mins	Find opportunities to count with your child in the language they are learning. You can practise anywhere - in the car, on the way to school or in a supermarket queue. Can you practise the colours of the objects you find?
<u>Learn a new song from around the world</u>	15 mins+	Learn a traditional song from another country. Find simple rhymes and counting song in a language your child is learning or is interested in. Can they teach you a song or rhyme they already know?
<u>Multilingual games for toddlers</u>	Various	This website from the BBC has lots of nice ideas for parents with very young children. Some of the activities are also suitable for nursery and children in early primary school.
 Suitable for all ages and stages <u>Let's get cooking</u>	1 hour + preparation and planning	At the supermarket, look for products in other languages and from other countries. Where do your favourite foods come from? Have some fun in the kitchen and create a dish from another country. Watch the French version of Bake Off on You tube: <u>le Meilleur Pâtissier</u>
Movie night	2-3 hours	Get the popcorn at the ready! Why not watch a film or tv programme in a foreign language? Many can be found on streaming channels such as Netflix. There are also lots of foreign language YouTubers for all ages and the speed/subtitles can be changed to suit learners.

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 Suitable for all ages and stages	Daily Challenge Languages Week Scotland	<p>Join in with one of the <u>Daily Challenges</u> running throughout Languages Week Scotland. Share how you get on using #ScotlandLovesLanguages on social media.</p>
<u>Learn a tongue twister</u>	5 mins	<p>Have fun with tongue twisters in different languages. Saying tongue twisters can be difficult at first, so don't worry if you can't do it very well to begin with. Just keep practising and have fun!</p>
Scavenger hunt	1 hour+	<p>Give your children a list of items to find. The items must be listed in another language. Use an online dictionary to help source the words e.g. www.wordreference.com. Once you have the list, give the children a set time to find the items in the house. They might need some help with using the online dictionary.</p>
Language learning together with Duolingo	Over several days or weeks	<p>This activity can be completed as a family where all family members learn a language together. It's free to sign up and easy to use. A simple chart to record the scores for all participants will need to be prepared. Have fun!</p>
Make a zine	Ongoing	<p>Languages are all around us and there are many words used in English that are borrowed from elsewhere e.g. pizza or croissant. This zine-making activity allows you to look for words from various languages and record them in your zine. Food packaging is a great source of vocabulary, as are store magazines, signs or even just noting some of your favourite words in a different language. You'll be amazed at what you will find.</p>
It's good to talk!	Languages Week Scotland	<p>Share your child's language learning in family life and in everyday situations. For Languages Week Scotland, try to practise familiar phrases in the language your child is learning at school.</p>

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 Suitable for all ages and stages	Over several days or weeks	<p>Why not explore books in other languages? There are many sites with free access to digitised books in many languages and for all levels. Have a browse through sites such as The International Children's Digital Library, Global Storybooks, MagicBlox or Children's Books Online where you will find a wealth of reading materials.</p>
Exquisite Corpse drawing	1 hour+	<p>As a family, create/draw a mythical creature or monster then describe or label it using different languages known. Find more information and Exquisite Corpse template online.</p>
Fun and games	1 hour+	<p>Play a simple card or familiar board game in a different language. Why not try out Ludo in Latvian or Frustration in French? Bring a languages twist to family games night!</p>
Library Visit	Ongoing	<p>Go to your local library and explore which children's books are available in different languages. Choose a book in to read together in any language you are interested in or know.</p>
Making Picture Books	15 mins+	<p>With your child make picture books without any written words. These can be imaginative stories or based on real events. Take in turns with your child to tell the story in your home language.</p>
 Suitable for upper primary	Over several days or weeks	<p>Connect with your family's favourite European sportsperson or team on social media. Follow the sporting action, share messages of support for your team, and learn at the same time.</p>

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 Suitable for upper primary	Over several days or weeks	<p><u>Listen to favourite Disney songs in different languages.</u></p> <p><u>Listen to the best current European music on YouTube.</u></p>
Technology to help you learn	Over several days or weeks	<p>Switch the settings on a mobile phone, games console or mobile device to the language your child is learning. Which words do you know? Can you guess some of the others? Ask questions to the digital voice assistant (Siri/Google) in another language.</p> <p>Learn words like “send,” “delete” and “cancel,” just from using your phone on a daily basis.</p>
Learning together	Over several weeks or months	<p>If you want to continue learning a language, there are lots of free online resources to get you started such as <u>BBC Languages</u>, <u>Radio Lingua free podcasts</u> or <u>Duolingo</u>.</p>
Word map	1 hour	<p>This is an association game that you can play with your child or children. Start by writing a word in any language in the middle of a sheet of paper. Then branch out with words in the different languages they know that they associate with it. Once they are finished, they can create a multilingual story using some of the words they have shared.</p>



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 Languages Week Scotland
 Use the hashtag **#ScotlandLovesLanguages**