



Your Home Language is Important

Being multilingual in today's global world is an asset. Parents, you can support your child to recognise that their home language and culture is something to be proud of, a part of their identity, connecting them with their family's heritage. Here are some ideas to encourage your child to maintain and develop their home language.

1 Make sure your child knows the value of being multilingual

Remind your child that speaking more than one language allows them to interact with other communities and provides increased opportunity in travel, study and work.

2 Make sure your child knows how important their family's heritage and culture is

Retell your family's stories, songs and traditions. Attend cultural events in the community.

3 Use your home language with your children every day

Remember the benefits of your home language and remain committed to continuing to use it, no matter your child's age.

4 Encourage your child to share their home language

Remind your child that they can use their home language in school to support their learning or to help others. They can also attend events where their language is spoken e.g. home language lessons, school cultural clubs, multilingual youth clubs etc.

5 Help your child with their homework

If your child needs help with their homework, help them in your own language. Make use of translation apps and language learning apps to translate any new vocabulary learnt in school into their home language.

6 Ensure your home language is continually present in the home


Watch films together in the home language or with home language subtitles. Encourage your child listen to music, read books and use apps in their home language.

7 Write in your home language with your child

Translate some of your child's writing in English into your home language with them.

8 Continue using your home language as your child gets older

Sometimes children start to prefer to use English as they get older. Continue using your language, even if your children respond in English.

 Parents, YOU are key to maintaining your child's home language



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1 Use your home language with your child every day

Remember the benefits of your home language and remain committed to continuing to use it, no matter your child's age.

2 Make sure your child knows how important their family's language and culture is

Let your child know that your family's language and culture are something to be proud of and to treasure. Explain to your child the many benefits of multilingualism.

3 Share your traditions and culture

All families have a rich heritage. Pass this on to your child by sharing stories, chants, rhymes, poems, sayings, songs and traditions from your culture.

4 Read in your home language with your child

Read books/magazines/articles online/watch films/use APPs together. Read a book to your child every day - in whatever language you feel most comfortable - beginning at birth.

5 Check out materials in your language from the library and online

Look for books, films, and music in your language.

6 Help your child with their homework

If your child needs help with their homework, help them in your own language.

7 Look for activities in your community

Attend cultural activities and meet other families who speak your home language.

8 Continue using your home language as your child gets older

Sometimes children start to prefer to use English as they get older. Continue using your language, even if your children respond in English.



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