

# European Day of Languages 2025

## Ideas for Early Years and Primary

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Let us know how you celebrate the European Day of Languages and we will post it on our **EDL 2025** blog!  
Email [scilt@strath.ac.uk](mailto:scilt@strath.ac.uk) with all your EDL news.




# European Day of Languages 2025

## Ideas for Early Years and Primary

### Create and celebrate

All signed and spoken languages merit celebration because 26 September is the European Day of Languages (not the Day of European Languages)

Activity	Suggested timeframe	Description
 <a href="#">Celebrate EDL with the Council of Europe</a>	Varied	Pick one of the activities from the varied collection on the official EDL website.
<a href="#">Language Portraits</a> and <a href="#">Multilingual Me</a>	20-30 minutes	<b>Language Portraits</b> are a tried and tested way to encourage children to talk about their different languages, and how they form a part of their identity. The premise is simple – children choose one colour for each language they consider part of their identity, and colour in the outline of a person, in any way they want. <b>Multilingual Me</b> build on the languages portrait work.
Class or whole school languages audit	1-2 weeks in total	Carry out an audit of all the different languages spoken in your class or school community – include staff, pupils and family members. Guess the total number of languages challenge. Then collect, display and interpret data. Share the information in a display for a prominent location in your school/on your school website/in your school newsletter/at an assembly.
Art and Design	Half a day / homework task	Children study works by artists from a country and create a piece of art in the same style. Incorporate instructions in the target language.



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#### Description

Suitable for all ages and stages

Eurovision!

Half day event

Arrange a Eurovision-style song contest in your school with songs performed in home/taught languages.

Masked Multilingual Singer

Half day event

Take the music a step further with a masked singer- style competition. Record members of your school community singing a song in a language other than English. Use digital tools to add a mask to hide their faces.

Design and engineering

Half day event

Research famous landmarks from different countries. Use problem-solving strategies to construct models using a range of different media. Incorporate some target language for materials, tools and verbs for making.

Suitable for middle and upper primary

Research challenge

30+ minutes

Challenge to discover the many countries of the world/how many people around the world where your target language(s) is/are official languages. Could be a challenge done against the clock or as a homework task, individually or collaboratively.

Daily life around the world

1 day - 1 week

Research daily life in a country and present in a media of choice. Include target language around routines, meals, school and leisure activities.

Games inventors

Up to 1 week

Groups or individuals create a board game to promote/celebrate languages for others to play i.e.: What does the Spanish word 'zanahoria' mean in English? Which languages are spoken in Switzerland?  
You must know the answers to your questions!



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## Ideas for Early Years and Primary

### Create and celebrate

#### Activity

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#### Description

Suitable for middle and upper primary

#### Multilingual tongue twister challenge

15 mins +

Choose a language and learn a tongue twister in that language.

How many times can you say your tongue twister in a minute? Can you make a whole class film of all the different tongue twisters?

Examples: <https://youtu.be/SI1J2bbbOt4>  
<https://edl.ecml.at/Activities/Multilingualtonguetwisterchallenge/tabid/3268/Default.aspx>  
 and  
<https://www.omniglot.com/language/tonguetwisters/index.htm>

### Cultural activities

#### Activity

#### Suggested timeframe

#### Description

Suitable for all ages and stages

#### Languages in your community

Half an hour

Invite a linguist from your class/school or the local community to share knowledge and experiences with a group of learners. Share photos, clothing, food, music, dance, customs & festival.

Alternatively create a display (map/graph) to capture all the languages used by members of your school community.

#### Multilingual approaches through art

30 mins per activity

Dip into this pack of ten different creative activities that recognise that integrate interdisciplinary, cross-curricular and cultural elements. Each come with step by step teacher instructions.



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### Cultural activities

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Suitable for all ages and stages

Cultural day

Whole day

Plan a whole day of activities to celebrate based on a selection from these SCILT EDL suggestions.

[Explore biscuits](#)

45-60 mins per section

Explore the tasty treat that can take you round the world. Six part resource from MFL Mentoring in English/Welsh with French, German & Spanish.

[The Great Languages Challenge](#)

Group and/or homework task

Challenge sheets are free to download and can be completed during a planned lesson or also set as a language-themed homework task. We even have a blank version available that students can use to design their own challenges for their classmates. [This activity may contribute towards British Council International School Award. Not an obligation.]

[NYCOS British Sign Language Songs](#)

10 mins +

Collection of over 20 video tutorials with presenters from National Youth Choir of Scotland for a Wee Summer Sing. British Sign Language version of English language and Scots language children's songs.

[BBC Bring the Noise](#)

10 mins +

Five films with songs in British Sign Language (BSL). Why not learn to sign and dance-along to the songs of different genres.



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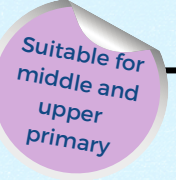




# European Day of Languages 2025

## Ideas for Early Years and Primary

### Cultural activities

Activity	Suggested timeframe	Description
 <a href="#">Into Film</a>	10 mins +	EDL resources to accompany feature length films in languages other than English in their collection. Check age recommendations. Register for a free school account to access these and other Into Film resources.
 <a href="#">EDL Language quiz</a>	30 mins +	EDL quiz with 7 categories. Also a wide range of language facts, languages games and language fun on this webpage.
<a href="#">Marvellous Menus</a>	Half a day/ homework task	<b>Suitable for P5-P7</b> Research school meals in the country of your choice. Label the dishes or ingredients of a meal in one (or more) language spoken in that country or in your class. Create a multilingual menu for your favourite school meal in one or more language.
Languages Café	Half day event	<b>Suitable for P5-P7</b> Pupils host a café with food, drink, menu, ordering and decorations in the appropriate target language. Invite pupils, staff, parents & visitors who are encouraged to order in the target language.



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## Ideas for Early Years and Primary

### Cultural activities

#### Activity

#### Suggested timeframe

#### Description

Suitable for middle and upper primary

Country profile

Up to 1 week

#### Suitable for P5-P7

Carry out research to create a detailed profile in any format about one of the countries where your school's L2 or L3 language is an official language.

Suitable for upper primary

Fashion Show

Up to 1 week

Celebrate traditional clothing from countries of the world.

Use presentation software to present a digital fashion show

Present a multilingual class fashion show in real life, describing the outfits in the home/taught languages represented by the children in your class.

Remember to be respectful and avoid harmful stereotypes.

### Activities involving ICT

#### Activity

#### Suggested timeframe

#### Description

Suitable for all ages and stages

Social media

10 mins

On social media around 26 September post about language learning in English or better still in the target language. Use hashtag #coeEDL

Digital storytelling

30 mins +

Use a free app like [Puppet Pals](#) or [Chatterpix Kids](#) to create a short animated conversation or story in a home or taught language.



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## Ideas for Early Years and Primary

### Activities involving ICT

#### Activity

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#### Description

Suitable for all ages and stages

QR code treasure/scavenger hunt

1 hour + to prepare and try out

Create a treasure hunt around classroom/school/school grounds using QR codes. Questions or answers to incorporate target language(s) as appropriate to learners' ages and stage. Find step-by-step instructions for how to create a QR code treasure/scavenger hunt [here](#).

[Global Storybooks Portal](#)

5 mins +

A free online multilingual library of ebooks for children and young people of all ages. Read, teach, download, and listen to illustrated stories in many languages from all over the world.

Suitable for middle and upper primary

Digital game

1 hour +

Use your favourite digital tool to create a quiz or other interactive activity including questions in or about home/taught language(s).

Suitable for upper primary

Virtual tours

1 hour +

Use [thinglink](#) or [genial.ly](#) or equivalent interactive digital presentation platform to create a virtual tour of places where home/taught language(s) are used. If it's your first attempt, why not watch the recording [How to guide for thinglink](#) and [How to guide for genial.ly](#).



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## Ideas for Early Years and Primary

### Learning languages

#### Activity

#### Suggested timeframe

#### Description

Fun language facts and Reality check

5 mins +

Try these two activities collated by NICILT. Free to download.

Languages take you further

10 mins +

Use this interactive animated phrase book – free to download. Practice useful phrases in 26 different European languages.

Learning languages and the four capacities

10 mins

Discuss the statements on this poster from Education Scotland which explains how learning, knowing and using more than one language contributes to the development of the four CfE capacities.

Multilingual English

Homework task

Identify the origin language of words and phrases widely used in English language. eg. Do you know which languages words such as ballet, moped, kindergarten and chocolate come from?

Sources:

<https://www.dictionary.com/e/borrowed-words/> and

<https://www.fluentu.com/blog/english/english-words-from-other-languages/>

Can the bilingual children in your class identify words with an English origin that are widely used in the language(s) they use at home?

Languages Facts and Quiz

Facts =  
Homework task  
Quiz = 30 mins

Learn language related facts then try out the quiz in groups, pairs or one on one!

Suitable for all ages and stages

Suitable for middle and upper primary



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## Ideas for Early Years and Primary

### Learning languages

#### Activity

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#### Description

Suitable for upper primary

[Languages all around you](#)

Over several weeks

This booklet raises awareness of languages in everyday life. It comprises a collection of activities showing how modern languages are part of everyday life. The idea is to make pupils more aware of the importance of languages, the role they play in many aspects of young people's experience and how languages can be learned while having fun and playing.

[Scottish European Languages Portfolio \(ELP\)](#)

Ongoing

Use the Scottish ELP to record achievements and experiences with different languages at home, at school and beyond.

### Learning together

#### Activity

#### Suggested timeframe

#### Description

Suitable for all ages and stages

[Lost Wor\(l\)ds - Activities](#)

Varied

Try out one or more of the Lost Wor(l)ds activities that actively enable multilingual children to use their languages in formal education contexts, and for non-multilingual children to develop language awareness and utilise any growing understanding of taught languages.

[Lost Wor\(l\)ds - Stimulus Activities](#)

ranging from 10 mins to a series of activities over 30 days

Try out these outdoor learning activities with a multilingual twist as a group, a class, a whole school or a family:  
[30 Days Wild Multilingual](#)  
[10 minutes other language stimulus](#)  
[10 minutes English stimulus](#)



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## Ideas for Early Years and Primary

### Learning together

#### Activity

#### Suggested timeframe

#### Description

Suitable for middle and upper primary

[The Rights of the Language Learner](#)

5 mins

Download and display this free poster from small publishing to encourage a positive approach to language learning.

[Hello! Talk to me!](#)

5 mins

Watch and work out which languages are used by the people in this short film from the European Centre for Modern Languages.

Teach your families

EDL week

Involve parents and carers in EDL. Promote a simple phrase of the L2/L3 taught language each day for children to practise at home with their families. Invite multilingual children and/or family members to read a story or teach a little of their home language to classmates.

[Languagestones](#)

Open ended

As a class, school or club, collect stones. Wash them and paint a design including a word or phrase in your target language on each stone. When complete, hide each stone in a different place around the school building, wider community or beyond for others to find. When you find someone's Language Stone, take a photo of it and then post it on the [Languagestones Facebook group page](#) and/or on social media using the #languagestones hashtag, before hiding it again. You will be able to follow the stone you made or found and to see how far it travels.



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## Ideas for Early Years and Primary

### Learning together

#### Activity

#### Suggested timeframe

#### Description

Suitable for upper primary

Sharing language learning

30 mins

#### Suitable for P6-P7

Upper school pupils plan and carry out a language learning activity with younger children. The activity could be to teach a song/rhyme, read a simple story or play a game in home/taught spoken or a signed language

Language Ambassadors Fun Day

Preparation/  
planning time  
Half day event

#### With support from languages department in associated secondary

Invite senior pupils to help plan and deliver language activities for EDL for primary learners.

Preparation/planning time required between primary and secondary staff/senior pupils

Multilingual Maze

15 mins+

This activity can be done indoors or outdoors, and with natural, digital or everyday materials using home or taught languages as appropriate.

**Pair 1** use (natural) materials to create a simple maze for another pair. Swap places with another pair.

**In Pair 2**, children take turns to give and act on instructions in home/taught language(s) to guide a plushie/Playmobil character/programmable robot through the maze from the start to the finish.

See this [social media post](#) for inspiration. Credit to Mr Minchin.

View our EDL blogs from previous years for even more practical ideas from Scottish schools:

[EDL 2024](#)

[EDL 2023](#)

[EDL 2022](#)