

## European Day of Languages 2024

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

Activity	Suggested timeframe	Description
<p><i>Suitable for younger learners</i></p> <p><a href="#">Counting fun</a></p>	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?
<p><a href="#">Learn a new song from around the world</a></p>	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?
<p><a href="#">Multilingual games for toddlers</a></p>	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.
<p><i>Suitable for all ages and stages</i></p> <p><a href="#">Let's get cooking</a></p>	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. Bon appétit! Alternatively, watch the French version of Bake Off on YouTube: <a href="#">le Meilleur Pâtissier</a>
<p>Movie night</p>	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 however, if you don't have this service, try using a DVD. All you need to do is change the language. Et voila! It's a great way to access a language. There are lots of foreign language YouTubers for all ages and the speed/subtitles can be changed to suit learners.



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Activity	Suggested timeframe	Description
<a href="#">Learn a tongue twister</a>	5 mins	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!
Scavenger hunt	1 hour+	Give your children a list of items to find. The items must be in the foreign language. Use an online dictionary to help source the words e.g. <a href="http://www.wordreference.com">www.wordreference.com</a> . 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.
Language learning together with Duolingo	Over several days or weeks	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!
Make a zine	Ongoing	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.



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Let's read	Over several days or weeks	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 <a href="#">The International Children's Digital Library</a> , <a href="#">Global Storybooks</a> , <a href="#">MagicBlox</a> or <a href="#">Children's' Books Online</a> where you will find a wealth of reading materials.
It's good to talk!	EDL week	Share your child's language learning in family life and in everyday situations. For EDL week try to practise familiar phrases in the language your child is learning at school.
Exquisite Corpse drawing	1 hour+	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 <a href="#">online</a> .
Fun and games	1 hour+	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!



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Suitable for upper primary

Activity	Suggested timeframe	Description
Social media	Over several days or weeks	Connect with your family’s favourite European sportsperson or team on social media. Follow the sporting action on Facebook or tweet messages of support to your team and learn at the same time.
Change your listening habits	Over several days or weeks	<a href="#">Listen to favourite Disney songs in different languages.</a> <a href="#">Listen to the best current European music on YouTube.</a>
Technology to help you learn	Over several days or weeks	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. Learn words like “send,” “delete” and “cancel,” just from using your phone on a daily basis.
Learning together	Over several weeks or months	If you want to continue learning a language, there are lots of free online resources to get you started such as <a href="#">BBC Languages</a> , <a href="#">Radio Lingua free podcasts</a> or <a href="#">Duolingo</a> .

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

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