

LANGUAGES – EXCEED AND EXCEL

Supporting your child in learning a language

Leading by example

Encourage your child's love of languages by displaying a positive attitude to other languages and cultures.

Languages are all around us

Stimulate your child's curiosity by looking for words from other languages on products around the home and in the shops. Ask your child if they can identify different languages and what words they recognise. Turn this into a game and challenge them to work out the ones they don't know.

Learning together

Don't be daunted if you don't know any additional languages; you can still support your child. Ask them to teach you some of the new vocabulary and phrases they have learned.

Holiday time

Either abroad with local people or in Scotland with visiting tourists encourages your child to test out their new language skills. Using the language for a real purpose shows children how valuable a skill it is.

Changing mindsets

Discuss the benefits and myths with your child and dispel any prejudices about learning other languages.

Improving writing

Get a pen pal and write them an email or letter, corresponding in their language.

Help your child make time to practice. Learning a language is like learning to play an instrument, there needs to be time to practice.

Encourage your child to complete any extension material set either for homework or classwork.

Aim high, don't settle for your target level but try to exceed it.

Ask your child to explain specific grammar rules to you.

Improving Listening

Access to a range of films, videos, online radio programmes would all be of benefit to improving listening skills.

Ask your child to translate key sections eg the news headlines and increase as they build in confidence

In a listening exercise, write down what you hear; transpose what you hear into another tense

Change the language on your smart phone so the instructions are in another language to understand simple instructions

Listen to music in another language from you tube.

Improving Speaking

Get involved with any of the exchanges and practice speaking to someone in their language may be even via Skype

The more the language is spoken the easier it becomes to use

Find a podcast to support your pronunciation and your general understanding

Have your child teach you to say something in the language every day. Explaining is learning. Let your child laugh at your mangled pronunciation – and correct you.

Wider Recommended Reading

Daily newspapers and magazines in another language

Asterix

Non-fiction books:

Avions et bateaux en origami

Doc a doc – les chateaux forts

Doc a doc – le soleil, la lune et les planets

Ma premiere Histoire de France

Fiction:

Most reading material can be bought in another language for example the Artemis Fowl and Harry Potter series, Roald Dahl has been translated as have many other quality books

Television, Radio and Podcasts

The Languages Faculty has a range of films to recommend

Watch a range of programmes in the language of your choice with the subtitles to keep your motivated and engaged

Places to Visit

The world!

German Exchange

Spanish Exchange

French Exchange

Any of the countries that speak the languages that you are studying

Experience the culture of other countries by tasting a range of world cuisine – even try to order in the language!

Find cultural events connected to the language and culture being studied. “I’m big on kids developing a personal connection with the language because at some point, they’ll hit a teacher they don’t connect with,” says Michael Bacon, who coordinates the nationally

recognized language immersion programs for public schools in Portland, Ore. This can be tough in communities without many immigrants or for families whose children are studying less commonly used languages like Arabic or Mandarin. But it can often be done with some creative thinking. Bacon says Portland students in a Japanese class acted as translators for a child from Japan who was admitted to a local hospital. Or check to see if your city has a sister city program or your local business community has ties abroad that can connect students to native speakers.

Take an interest in festivals or the culture of the language that you are learning, such as Venetian masks in Italian, Chinese New Year

Websites and apps

www.zut.org.uk

www.languagesonline.org.uk.

www.aboutfrench.com.

www.klar.co.uk.

www.linguascope.com

www.ukgermanconnection.org.

www.futuroscope.fr

www.yjc.org.uk

www.kaboodle.com.

L'express

Le Monde

Le Point

Dien Spiegel

Extracurricular and competitions

Y7 French Spelling Bee

Y8 German Spelling Bee

Y8 Spanish Spelling Bee

KS3 Language Clubs