

European Day of Languages 2026

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

Activity	Suggested timeframe	Description
<i>Suitable for younger learners</i> Counting fun	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?
Learn a new song from around the world	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?
Multilingual games for toddlers	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.
<i>Suitable for all ages and stages</i> Let's get cooking	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: le Meilleur Pâtissier
Movie night	2-3 hours	Get the popcorn at the ready! Why not watch a film or tv programme in another 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 many different language YouTubers for all ages and the speed/subtitles can be changed to suit learners.



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Learn a tongue twister	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 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.
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 Global Storybooks , MagicBlox , The Fable Cottage or Children's Books Online 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 online .
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!
Language treasure hunt and matching activity	30 mins	Hide cards or pictures of everyday objects (like "dog," "house," "car") around the room. Then hide another group of cards with the names of the objects written in another language. Ask your child to find the 'word' cards and match them with the picture cards. It's like an Easter egg hunt with languages that introduces simple vocabulary in a fun and engaging way.



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 Language karaoke	30 mins - 1 hour	Find a simple folk or pop song in another language on YouTube with subtitles. Sing along and follow the words on the screen. This is a fun way to introduce rhythm, pronunciation, and the joy of music while building confidence in trying new sounds.
Map Explorers	30 mins - 1 hour	Using a map of Europe or the World, ask your child to find five different countries. Then learn how to say the country's name in the local language (e.g., "España" instead of "Spain"). You could also link this to doing more research with them on food, traditions, or music from that country.
Multilingual Friendship stone painting	An afternoon	Get creative by painting a multilingual friendship stone using words and phrases from various languages. This activity celebrates diversity, promotes inclusion, and reflects the many languages and cultures within our society
 Puppet pals	1 hour+	Create a puppet using lollipop sticks, toilet roll tubes or even socks and bring it to life with different languages! Families can decorate their puppet then use it to practise and perform greetings, words and simple phrases in a range of languages.
Family quiz night	1 hour	Create a family quiz with rounds like "guess the language from the word," "match the flag to the country," or "spot the European accent." Children can also become the quizmasters and teach the adults! It makes learning interactive and social.

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 Social media	Over several days or weeks	Connect with your family's favourite European sportsperson or team on social media. Follow the sporting action, share messages of support to your team and learn at the same time.
Change your listening habits	Over several days or weeks	Listen to favourite Disney songs in different languages. Listen to the best current European music on YouTube.
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 BBC Languages , Radio Lingua free podcasts or Duolingo .

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

[EDL 2025](#)

[EDL 2024](#)

[EDL 2023](#)

