

How can I help my child with their language learning?

1. Be interested and positive about languages.
2. Help them with learning their vocabulary. They have regular (usually weekly) tests in class. See the strategies below.
3. When they have a speaking task to prepare for, listen to them practise their questions or presentation. See strategies below.
4. Help them with their homework by encouraging them to use their exercise books and vocab books as a resource if they are stuck. Also see list of useful websites below.
5. Allow them to listen to music / radio in the foreign language and also watch appropriate shows on Netflix if you have it. You can even watch your normal shows / films in English but put the subtitles on in the foreign language. It's all good exposure.
6. For younger students especially please help them to remember their log ins and passwords for the websites we subscribe to (mostly ActiveLearn and Linguascope). Allow them to save the details on the device or make a note of them at home. We regularly use them for setting homework / revision.
7. Don't worry about your own lack of knowledge or confidence in the language. Let your child teach you and laugh at your pronunciation. They love telling us about your mistakes!

Strategies for learning vocabulary

1. Read and repeat the words in your head
2. Read and repeat the words out loud
3. Cover the English side of the vocab list and test yourself.
4. Highlight the words you didn't know.
5. Write these words out on a separate piece of paper.
6. Repeat the above actions until you can translate all the words on the list.

Record yourself saying the words

Record a second version with a gap for you to answer yourself with the correct translation.

Sing the words

Write out the trickiest words onto a post it note and stick it somewhere you will see it often (e.g. by the toilet / fridge / computer.)

Take a picture of the words and have it as the background on your phone for the week.

Create small flashcards/memory cards. Play snap / pairs.

Ask someone at home to test you. They don't need to understand the words – but they might learn something too!

Study with a friend. Test each other by texting each other words at random for your friend to translate.

Make a quiz / wordsearch for a friend and swap.

I am sure you can come up with lots of other ideas. Please share them with your teacher as we can share ideas and they may help other students too.

Don't forget to try lots of strategies and see which ones work for you. Combine different strategies.

Strategies for preparing for a speaking task

Be realistic in your preparation. Your teacher will have given you lots of guidance on which questions to prepare or what your presentation should contain.

Stick to language you know and have covered in lessons. Don't be tempted to head to Google to help you. Use the language in your exercise and vocab books when preparing what you want to say.

Don't just learn off by heart to repeat like a parrot. That is not the idea here. However, the more you practise and prepare the more confident you will feel and the better your spoken language will be.

Record your questions or presentation so that you can listen back to it. (Get over the fact that your voice sounds strange!) or ask your teacher to record it for you if you'd rather. They won't mind. That way you will also have correct pronunciation too.

Break the language down into small chunks. Learn little and often.

Use some of the strategies above for learning vocab e.g. post-it notes with key words/phrases on..

Use the ..website. You can type in your text and then it will remove words bit by bit so that you build up your memory. You can also do this yourself by writing out your text again and then using a black marker hide key words, take away more and more words until you have a sheet of black marks but you can remember what's under them.

Useful websites which can help you and your child with homework and revision.

www.linguascope.com

www.languagesonline.org.uk

www.bbcbitessize.co.uk

