

Why keep the home language?

Keeping the home language has many benefits. Development of the home language will support and promote...

- A Sense of Identity -
- Family Togetherness through shared goals and interests -
- Strong Communication Skills -
- Cultural Awareness -
- Positive Mental Health and a Sense of Wellbeing -
- Cognitive Skills Development -
- Educational Achievement -

Using the mat...

- Remember that immersion in the language helps to foster a willingness to learn and establishes good habits with the language from the outset.
- Using the home language often is more important than trying to always use the language perfectly.
- Use the mat as a support and guide – not everything on the mat must be memorized!
- The mat is a visual reminder to use the home language often. It can be printed and displayed somewhere in the home that is easily visible – this might be on the fridge, at the child's desk, in the play area etc.

Say 'Yes' to Chinese at home

You could...

- Use it as a placemat at the family table.
- Use the mat as a stimulus when playing with your child and invent creative ways to use the language/phrases together.
- Create a fun planner for the whole family to encourage family members to use different languages at different times or for different tasks.
- Set small, manageable goals when learning the home language and use lots of positive reinforcement to build confidence and make the process fun.
- Laminate multiple copies of the mat and share them with family members.

What can I do if my child seems disinterested?

- Most importantly, don't give up!
- Keep your responses short and clear if your child appears to be confused.
- Encourage your child to respond with phrases rather than single words where possible.
- Model enthusiasm for the home language when they use it and encourage further participation by asking them more about what they say.
- Connect with other families who speak the home language or join a community/group who speak the language together.

How can I ensure that the whole family understands the importance of keeping the home language?

- Explain how learning the home language will benefit the whole family.
- Remind family members that multilingualism is possible and has many advantages.
- Ensure that all family members are included from the very beginning of the process.
- Encourage meaningful communication between the child and other family members in the home language.
- Introduce family members to the language at the same time as the child to develop a sense of unity.
- Make learning the home language a fun and enjoyable experience for the whole family!



For more information on support for parents, scan the QR code or visit languagesconnect.ie.



Say 'Yes' to Chinese at home

Encourage / 鼓励 Gǔlì

Great	非常好 Fēicháng hǎo
Well done / Great work	做得很好 Zuò de hěn hǎo
Fantastic	太棒了 Tài bàng le
Keep going	继续 Jìxù
You can do it yourself	你可以自己做 Nǐ kěyǐ zìjǐ zuò.
Try again	再试一下 Zài shì yíxià.

Greet / 打招呼 dǎzhāohu

Hello	你好 Nǐ hǎo
Bye	再见 Zàijiàn
Thank you	谢谢 Xièxie
Sorry	对不起 Duìbuqǐ
It doesn't matter	没关系 Méi guānxi
No problem	没问题 Méi wèntí
How are you?	你好吗? Nǐ hǎo ma?
Good morning	早上好 Zǎoshang hǎo
Good night	晚安 Wǎn'ān
What did you do today?	你今天做了什么? Nǐ jīntiān zuòle shénme?

Play / 玩 wán

Let us play / sing / read	让我们玩/唱/读 Ràng wǒmen wán / chàng / dú
Your / my / whose turn	该你/我/谁了? Gāi nǐ / wǒ / shuí le
Are you ready?	你准备好了吗? Nǐ zhǔnbèi hǎo le ma?
Follow me	跟着我 Gēnzhe wǒ
Look here / there	看这里/那里 Kàn zhèlǐ / nàlǐ
Listen	听 Tīng

Instruct / 指示 zhǐshì

Open / Close	打开/关上... Dǎkāi / Guānshàng ...
You have X minutes	你有X分钟 Nǐ yǒu X fēnzhōng
Time is up	时间到了 Shíjiān dào le
Let us brush your teeth /	让我们刷牙/洗脸 Ràng wǒmen shuāyá / xǐliǎn
Listen to me	听我说 Tīng wǒ shuō
Be careful	小心 Xiǎoxīn
Let us take a break	我们休息一下 Wǒmen xiūxi yíxià
In Chinese please	请说中文 Qǐng shuō zhōngwén
Where is your toy/dress/book?	玩具/衣服/书... 在哪儿? Wánjù / yīfú / shū ... zài nǎ'ér?
Which one do you like/prefer?	你喜欢哪个? Nǐ xǐhuān nǎge?



Respond / 回答 huídá

Okay	好的 Hǎo de
I (don't) want to	我 (不) 想... Wǒ (bù) xiǎng...
I understand now /	我明白了 / 我不明白
I don't understand	Wǒ míngbái le / Wǒ bù míngbái
I am hungry / thirsty	我饿/渴了 Wǒ è / kě le
I need to pee/poo/	我要小便/便便/上厕所 Wǒ yào xiǎobiàn / biànbàn / shàng cèsuǒ
I feel sick	我不太舒服 Wǒ bù tài shūfu
I am finished /	我做完了 / 我没做完
I am not finished	Wǒ zuòwán le / Wǒ méi zuò wán
What should I do?	我怎么做? Wǒ zěnmě zuò?
I can do it myself	我可以自己做 Wǒ kěyǐ zìjǐ zuò
Can you help me?	你能帮我吗? Nǐ néng bāng wǒ ma?
How do you say	怎么用中文说...?
in Chinese?	Zěnmě yòng zhōngwén shuō...?
I (don't) like this one /	我(不)喜欢这个/那个
that one	Wǒ (bù) xǐhuān zhège / nàgè
Can I ...?	我可以...吗? Wǒ kěyǐ... ma?