

## 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 Polish 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](https://languagesconnect.ie).



# Say 'Yes' to Polish at home

## Encourage / Zachęta

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Great .....                  | <b>Wspaniale.</b>                      |
| Well done / Great work ..... | <b>Wspaniale! / Świetna robota!</b>    |
| Fantastic .....              | <b>Fantastycznie!</b>                  |
| Keep going .....             | <b>Próbuj dalej, nie poddawaj się.</b> |
| You can do it yourself ..... | <b>Dasz radę zrobić to sam / sama.</b> |
| Try again .....              | <b>Spróbuj jeszcze raz.</b>            |

## Greet / Powitania / Pożegnania

|                              |                                      |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Hello .....                  | <b>Cześć.</b>                        |
| Bye .....                    | <b>Do zobaczenia / Do widzenia.</b>  |
| Thank you .....              | <b>Dziękuję.</b>                     |
| Sorry .....                  | <b>Przepraszam.</b>                  |
| It doesn't matter .....      | <b>To nie ma znaczenia.</b>          |
| No problem .....             | <b>Nie ma problemu.</b>              |
| How are you? .....           | <b>Jak się masz?</b>                 |
| Good morning .....           | <b>Dzień dobry.</b>                  |
| Good night .....             | <b>Dobrej nocy / Dobranoc.</b>       |
| What did you do today? ..... | <b>Co dzisiaj robiłeś / robiłaś?</b> |

## Play / Zabawa

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Let us play / sing / read ..... | <b>Pobawmy się / Zaśpiewajmy / Poczytajmy.</b> |
| Your / my / whose turn .....    | <b>Czyja kolej?</b>                            |
| Are you ready? .....            | <b>Jesteś gotowy / a?</b>                      |
| Follow me .....                 | <b>Naśladuj mnie / Rób to co ja.</b>           |
| Look here / there .....         | <b>Spójrz tutaj / tam.</b>                     |
| Listen .....                    | <b>Stuchaj.</b>                                |

## Instruct / Instrukcje / Polecenia

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Open / Close .....                  | <b>Otwórz / Zamknij.</b>                              |
| You have X minutes .....            | <b>Masz na to X minut.</b>                            |
| Time is up .....                    | <b>Czas się skończył.</b>                             |
| Let us do it together .....         | <b>Zróbmy to razem.</b>                               |
| Let us brush your teeth .....       | <b>Umyj zęby / Umyjmy Twoje zęby.</b>                 |
| Let us wash your face .....         | <b>Umyj twarz- proszę / Umyjmy Twoją buzię.</b>       |
| Listen to me .....                  | <b>Postuchaj mnie.</b>                                |
| Be careful .....                    | <b>Bądź ostrożny / Ostrożnie.</b>                     |
| Let us take a break .....           | <b>Zróbmy sobie przerwę.</b>                          |
| In Polish please .....              | <b>Powiedz to po polsku, proszę.</b>                  |
| Where is your toy/dress/book? ..... | <b>Gdzie jest Twoja zabawka / sukienka / książka?</b> |
| Which one do you like/prefer? ..... | <b>Który wolisz?</b>                                  |



## Respond / Odpowiedzi

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Okay .....                               | <b>Dobrze.</b>   |
| I (don't) want to .....                  | <b>Nie chcę / Chcę.</b>                                |
| I understand now / .....                 | <b>Teraz rozumiem /</b>                                |
| I don't understand .....                 | <b>Nie rozumiem.</b>                                   |
| I am hungry / thirsty .....              | <b>Jestem głodny / a / spragniony / a.</b>             |
| I need to pee/poo/go to the toilet ..... | <b>Muszę iść do toalety / Chce mi się siku / kupę.</b> |
| I feel sick .....                        | <b>Źle się czuję.</b>                                  |
| I am finished .....                      | <b>Skończyłem(łam)</b>                                 |
| I am not finished .....                  | <b>Nie skończyłem(łam)</b>                             |
| What should I do? .....                  | <b>Co powinnam zrobić?</b>                             |
| I can do it myself .....                 | <b>Mogę to zrobić sam / a.</b>                         |
| Can you help me? .....                   | <b>Czy możesz mi pomóc?</b>                            |
| How do you say ... in Polish? .....      | <b>Jak po polsku powiesz...?</b>                       |
| I (don't) like this one / that one ..... | <b>Nie lubię tego/ tamtego.</b>                        |
| Can I ...? .....                         | <b>Czy mogę?</b>                                       |