

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 Portuguese 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 Portuguese at home

Encourage / Encorajar

Great	Excelente
Well done / Great work	Bom trabalho
Fantastic	Fantástico
Keep going	Continua
You can do it yourself	Pode fazer sozinha (o)
Try again	Tente de novo

Greet / Cumprimentar

Hello	Oi
Bye	Tchau
Thank you	Obrigada (o)
Sorry	Desculpe
It doesn't matter	Não tem problema
No problem	Tudo bem
How are you?	Como vai?
Good morning	Bom dia!
Good night	Boa noite!
What did you do today?	O que você fez hoje?

Play / Brincar

Let us play / sing / read	Vamos brincar/ cantar / ler
Your / my / whose turn	Sua / minha / de quem é a vez
Are you ready?	Está pronta (o)?
Follow me	Siga-me
Look here / there	Olha aqui/ ali
Listen	Ouçã

Instruct / Instruções

Open / Close	Abra / Feche
You have X minutes	Você tem X minutos
Time is up	O tempo acabou
Let us do it together	Vamos fazer juntos
Let us brush your teeth / wash your face	Vamos escovar os dentes / vamos lavar o rosto
Listen to me	Escute-me
Be careful	Tenha cuidado
Let us take a break	Vamos fazer uma pausa?
In Portuguese please	Em português por favor
Where is your toy/dress/book?	Onde está seu brinquedo / vestido / livro...?
Which one do you like/prefer?	Qual você quer / prefere?



Respond / Respostas

Okay	Okay
I (don't) want to... ..	Eu quero / Eu não quero
I understand now /	Agora eu entendo /
I don't understand	Eu não entendo
I am hungry / thirsty	Estou com fome / sede
I need to pee/poo/go to the toilet	Preciso fazer xixi /cocô / ir ao banheiro
I feel sick	Não me sinto bem.
I am finished	Terminei
I am not finished	Não terminei
What should I do?	O que devo fazer?
I can do it myself	Posso fazer sozinha (o)
Can you help me?	Pode me ajudar?
How do you say ... in Portuguese?	Como dizer ... em português?
I (don't) like this one / that one	Eu gosto (não gosto) deste / daquele
Can I ...?	Eu posso ... ?