

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 memorised!
- 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 Arabic 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?

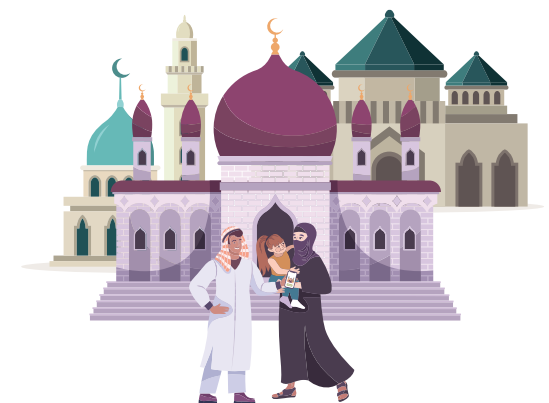
- Most importantly, don't give up!
- Keep your responses short and clear if your child appears to be confused.
- Encourage your child to respond with phrases rather than single words where possible.
- Model enthusiasm for the home language when they use it and encourage further participation by asking 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 Arabic at home



Encourage / تشجيع

Great	ممتاز
Well done / Great work	أحسنْتَ / عمل عظيم
Fantastic	رائع
Keep going	استمر
You can do it yourself	تستطيع أن تفعل ذلك بنفسك
Try again	حاول مرة أخرى

Greet / التحيّة

Hello	مرحباً
Bye	مع السلامة
Thank you	شكراً
Sorry	أسف / عفواً
It doesn't matter	لا يهم
No problem	ليس هناك مشكلة
How are you?	كيف حالكَ / حالِك؟
Good morning	صباح الخير!
Good night	تُصبح على خير!
What did you do today?	ماذا فعلتَ / فعلتِ اليوم؟

Play / اللعب

Let us play / sing / read	دعنا نلعب / نغني / نقرأ
Your / my / whose turn	دورك (ك) / دوري / دور من؟
Are you ready?	هل أنت جاهز؟
Follow me	اتبعني
Look here / there	أنظر هنا / هناك
Listen	استمع

Instruct / تعليمات

Open / Close	أغلق / افتح
You have X minutes	لديكَ / لديك X دقيقة (دقائق)
Time is up	انتهى الوقت
Let's do it together	دعونا نفعل ذلك معاً
Let's brush your teeth (m/f)	دعنا ننظف أسنانك / أسنانكِ
wash your face (m/f)	دعنا نغسل وجهك / وجهكِ
Listen to me	استمع إليّ
Be careful	انتبه
Let's take a break	دعنا نأخذ استراحة
In Arabic please	باللغة العربية من فضلك
Where is؟	أين لعبتكَ (لعبتكِ) / ثوبك (ثوبكِ) / كتابك (كتابكِ)؟
your toy/dress/book? (m/f)	
Which one do you؟	أي واحد تحبّ (تحبّين) / تفضّل (تفضّلين)؟
like/prefer? (m/f)	

Respond / الإجابات

Okay	حسناً
I (don't) want to... ..	أنا أريد / أنا لا أريد
I understand now	أنا أفهم الآن
I don't understand	أنا لا أفهم
I am hungry / thirsty	أنا جائع (جائعة) / عطشان (عطشانة)
I need to pee/poo/go to the toilet	أحتاج أن أذهب إلى الحمام
I feel sick	أشعر بالمرض / بالغثيان
I am finished	أنا انتهيت من
I am not finished	أنا لم أنتهِ من
What should I do?	ماذا عليّ أن أفعل؟
I can do it myself	أستطيع أن أفعل ذلك بنفسي
Can you؟	هل تستطيع (تستطيعين) أن تساعدني (تساعديني)؟
help me?	
How do you say؟	كيف تقول (تقولين).... باللغة العربية؟
in Arabic?	
I (don't) like this one / that one	أنا أحب / لا أحب هذا / ذلك؟
Can I ...?	هل أستطيع...؟