

HOME LANGUAGE PARENT INFORMATION

A home language is a language learned in childhood in the home environment. It is also referred to as mother tongue, first language, community language or native language.



BONJOUR

You are your child's first teacher.

When you speak the language which comes most naturally to you, your child develops a strong foundation of language skills that can then extend into English.

HI

Don't be afraid to share your home language with your child.

Learning more than one language does not usually affect your child's speech development. Rather, it strengthens their concentration, understanding of language, creativity and empathy.

HOLA

Language is a bridge to culture.

Sharing your home language with your child gives them a strong sense of identity, the ability to relate more easily to relatives and community members of their culture, and boosts their confidence and self-esteem.

NĪ HǎO

We know that the ages of 0-5 are a critical period for language acquisition.

For young children with constant exposure to more than one language, bilingualism can come as naturally as learning to crawl or walk. Multi-cultural parenting may not always be easy, but it delivers many benefits for your child and your family.

WUMINDJKA

Sharing a home language is a precious gift you can give your child.

The library is here to support you.

- Talking, reading and singing songs and rhymes are some of the best ways to share your home language with your child, and immerse them in your culture.
- Frankston City Libraries offers free bulk inter-library loans of books in community languages from libraries all over Victoria. Place a request with a library team member or via the 'suggest a purchase' link on the catalogue page of our website.
- Any book can become a home language book! You can translate any book you borrow into your home language as you read. You can translate the words, or just talk about what you see in the pictures! Stickers or labels with your home language written can be used to cover or stick alongside the English text on any book that belongs to you.
- The State Library of Victoria hosts a large collection of children's picture books in many different community languages in their Children's Quarter. Though these books cannot be borrowed, a visit to the State Library to browse and share these books with your child could be a special day out.
- If you are a parent trying to learn or reclaim your child's home language, your Frankston City Libraries library card offers you free access to Transparent Language Online, a language learning app with over 100 languages.