

Municipal Integration Centre for the Kleve district in collaboration with Caritasverband Kleve e.V. and the Christus-König Family Centre



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Books and stories can be a lot of fun!

It doesn't matter whether you read to your child or simply tell them stories – every time you use your language whilst spending time with them you are giving your child a positive experience with their family language. And, at the same time, you are aiding their language development and making it easier for them to learn when they go to school.

So read to your child as often as possible – in your family language or in German.

Public libraries often have a selection of books in different languages. You can borrow them free of charge or for a small fee.

If you are feeling unsure of yourself or have any questions about multilingualism and language development, you can get help and advice from the teachers at your nursery or from your child's doctor.

Media

Nowadays, all children grow up with media (TV, tablet, mobile phone, PC, etc.). When they are using media, make sure that the apps they use and the TV series or audio books they consume are either in your family language or in German. Further additional languages may be too much for your child.

It's important that you are with your child when they are using media. It's also a good idea to set some rules for media consumption. We recommend setting time limits and paying careful attention to age ratings (Voluntary Self-Regulation Body of the Film Industry (FSK)).

You can find further information on the following website:
www.schau-hin.info



**Multilingualism
as an opportunity**

Growing up with more than
one language



www.kreis-kleve.de



Dear parents,

Is your child growing up speaking more than one language?

If so, you are giving your child a special opportunity which will help them in their future life, in the way they learn and in their professional career. It's important in families that parents and children have shared family languages that they can use to communicate well with one another.

Speak to your child in the language that you speak best and that you feel most comfortable with. Your child needs you to be a role model for your family language so that they can learn to speak it confidently. We would therefore advise you to spend lots of time talking to your child and listening attentively, from the moment they are born. It's also helpful if each parent consistently speaks one language with the child.

On the next page, you'll find some tips on helping your child to learn your family language.

How your child learns their family language

- Use your language while you are carrying out your everyday activities, e.g. when you sit down to eat together, when you're out shopping, doing housework or playing. Name the things that you are talking about and doing.

„Come, let's take off your jacket.
We'll put your hat in the drawer.
We can hang up your scarf on the hook.“

- Try not to lose heart, even if your child only answers you in German or mixes up the languages. This is quite normal.
- Can you remember any finger games, songs, stories or rhymes from your childhood? Your child would love to hear them.
- Listen attentively and patiently to your child and look them in the eye when you're talking to them.

„I had a horrible day.“

„Really? Did something happen that upset you?“

- Don't pick up on their mistakes directly. Help your child to learn by repeating what they said and correcting it. This will prevent your child from losing confidence so they can continue to enjoy speaking.

„The girl catches.“

„That's right, the girl catches the blue ball.“

The better your child can speak your family language, the easier it will be for them to learn German. German language skills are important for your child so that they can make themselves understood and can do well at school. If your child notices that you also use German in your everyday life, this will encourage them and you will be a role model for them.

On the next page, you'll find some tips on helping your child to learn German.

How your child learns German

- If your child regularly attends a day nursery, they will have the opportunity to hear and speak a lot of German.
- Your child will learn German in a natural way if they play with German-speaking children, e.g. at nursery, on the playground or at a sports club or music club.

„At nursery, I make new friends.“

„At nursery, I hear German when I'm playing, singing and being read to.“

- You can also go to parent and child groups with your child. Here you can learn new songs or games, for example, and you'll also get to know other families.
- There are lots of groups where your child can sing, do sport, and run around and play with other children. Talk to the teachers at your nursery and ask them for information about clubs and groups you can join.

