





7 REFLECTIONS on language in families



 Deutsche Version
 Lëtzebuergesch Versioun
 Version française
 Versão portuguesa



1

“Bow-wow” or dog?

Children interact with their parents and community, exploring and experimenting with languages from an early age. Here are some ways to support language development and encourage their desire to communicate.

- Children learn the words we use (we can say “bow-wow” but let’s not forget to say “dog” as well).
- For toddlers, let’s describe the objects and accompany our gestures with words.
- Our children understand us better when we put ourselves on their level.
- Songs, (nursery) rhymes, stories and riddles encourage children to express themselves.

A multilingual country...

Children learn the languages around them in a natural and intuitive way. They feel a real need to use the languages that are used in their world. Let’s use the language we feel most comfortable and secure with and encourage children to express themselves.



2



3

Mommy, daddy, how far away is the moon?

We can’t know everything, nor can we have answers to all of our children’s questions.

Story books, search engines for children, hidden object books, educational videos, etc. help us to address our children’s questions and start a conversation.

...and listening?

Listening helps our children develop their imagination and creativity, reduces stress and promotes empathy as well as well-being.

Listening is the starting point for critical thinking and an important skill that is not to be underestimated. Today we have access to a vast variety of formats and sources of quality information.

Here are some format ideas for young people: audiobooks, podcasts, music and musical stories as well as radio programmes.



4

Where to display your children's artworks?

Let's encourage our children to express their thoughts, their stories and their imaginary world.

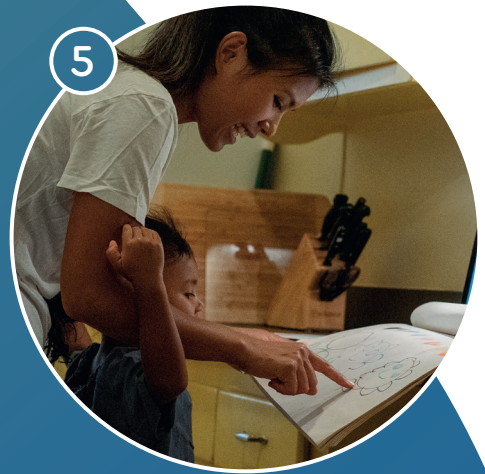
Leaving traces through drawings or small texts enhances creativity and self-confidence.

A place dedicated to drawings, crafts and writing at home encourages children to express themselves on a daily basis.

To value their productions, we can:

- Dedicate areas to display small artworks (frames, corkboard or magnet board, fridge, strings, etc.).
- Gather the productions and sort them from time to time, the important thing is to do it together with the children.
- The children's productions offer good opportunities for conversations.
- Why not gift the artworks to family or friends?

5



Do you remember your childhood books?

Numerous studies have shown that family reading plays a major role in language acquisition and future educational success.

Time to look at books and read together as a family can be found every day: whether it's to pass a waiting time (e.g. at the dentist, in a restaurant or in the car) or to end the day with a bedtime story. This shared moment is an excellent opportunity to enjoy quality family time.

Here are some ideas:

- Books can be stored everywhere in the house, in the car, in a small family library, etc.
- You can share the pleasure of books by looking at books or reading them with your children starting at a young age.
- Libraries, book stores, theatres and cultural centres are great places to discover the world of images and words.
- Besides the classic book, there are many good quality picture books, magazines, comics, newspapers, etc. for children.

6



What word to express my feelings?

Good communication helps us to create and maintain a good balance in the family:

- In our daily lives, let's be available and take the time to listen and ask questions.
- By identifying and talking about our feelings, we help children to better understand their own emotions and put them into words.
- We are more likely to be understood if we formulate our needs and requests clearly and sincerely.

7



The Eltereforum is a service of the Ministry of Education, Children and Youth. It is a place where all parents can get advice, information and support.



LE GOUVERNEMENT
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ministère de l'Éducation nationale,
de l'Enfance et de la Jeunesse


eltereforum.lu

 Eltere
Forum
A PLACE FOR ALL PARENTS