

Foreign Language Checklist

Topics for Beginning Language Learners

Put together by Liesl, homeschoolden.com

Are you teaching your kids a foreign language in your homeschool? I put together a free checklist of topics and units you might want to cover... no matter which language your student is learning.

As I was polishing up the Curriculum Resource Guide for middle school ages (6-8), I got to the section on foreign languages. I thought it might be useful if I put together a checklist of units and topics you might want to cover as your child starts learning a new language.

My kids started learning a foreign language in elementary school. But definitely by the time your kids are in middle school, you will want to think about adding a foreign language to your homeschool program. Research shows that it is considerably easier for children to pick up a language. In Europe, most students start learning a foreign language in primary school. Most have definitely started by the age of 10. When I taught in a gymnasium (grades 7-12 school) in Hungary, most of my students could speak one language fluently by 10th grade and were well on their way to becoming fluent in their second foreign language as well.

Most of us think of the languages that were offered when we were school: typically, Spanish, French and German. These days there are lots of other options as well: Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, Russian, Latin, Italian, and more. Another great option is ASL (American Sign Language). Many people don't realize that learning ASL will fulfill the requirements of a foreign language as well.

There are many options now to at least help students get started:

- Learn songs in the foreign language. (youtube has a lot of options!)
- Play games like bingo to help with vocabulary building
- Role play (Hello, My name is Joe Smith. What is your name? How old are you?)
- Online Programs and Apps can like Duolingo, Memrise, busuu, 24/7 Tutor
- Online Courses: There are lots of different options from courses with video lessons like homeschoolspanishcurriculum.com
- Programs such as Rosetta Stone or Pimsleur. (My sister used Rosetta Stone with her kids for German. I have a friend who had her daughter use Rosetta Stone for Spanish.) These programs did not work for our family when we started.
- Watch TV programs and movies in the foreign language. (This year, my kids have watched about 15 or 20 movies in German!) This helps students learn the rhythm and cadence of the language.

What if you don't have the skill and background to teach a foreign language?

- use an online program
- look for a homeschool class in your area (and ask around in your local homeschool community).
- see if you can trade expertise with another homeschooling parent who can help your kids learn a foreign language
- hire a tutor in person or find an online tutor

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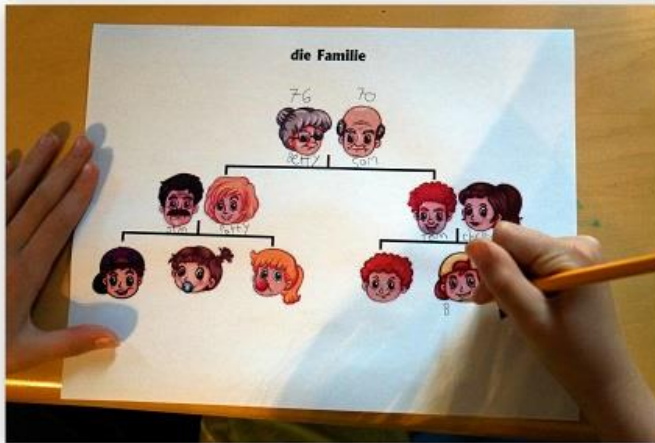
	Topic	Comments/Notes
	Numbers First Words: hello, goodbye, yes, no, I speak _____. I don't speak _____. What is that? What does ___ mean? Stand up, Sit down, Listen (pay attention)	
	Greetings and Questions How are you? What is your name? My name is... How old are you? I am __ years old.	
	Family Words Conversation /Role Play What's your name? How old are you? This is my brother/sister/etc. Possessive Pronouns	
	What is that? Do you have? Objects: Things around the room	
	Parts of the Body What do people look like (My brother has brown eyes.)	
	Clothes Colors The pants are blue. etc. Introduction to adjectives (grammar)	
	Animals Pets Wild Animals	
	Food Fruits and vegetables Meals Ordering Going shopping role play	

	House – Household Items	
	Time – Numbers	
	Weather, seasons, holidays What is the weather? What season is it? Over time we built up our vocabulary of fall words, winter words, spring words, summer words	
	Health and Illness I have a fever. I'm sick. Do you have a runny nose?	
	Daily routines getting up brushing teeth, eating breakfast going to bed etc.	
	Chores around the house Washing the dishes Doing the laundry Making the bed Vacuuming, etc.	
	Hobbies, activities Playing soccer, piano, chess Riding a bike, etc.	
	Verbs (Grammar) Regular vs. Irregular verbs	
	Country words, Farm City words, buildings Directions Traveling (airport, train station, transportation)	
	Jobs, occupations	
	Student subjects in school	
	Vacation Role playing	

We started learning German in our homeschool when the kids were still in elementary. We progressed slowly with various vocabulary building games and activities. We used easy worksheets and lots of picture cards as they built up their vocabulary and role played various scenarios.

Below for example, my daughter is holding a “mom” and we are asking her what her name is and how old she is:

German Conversation Practice: Family



homeschoolden.com



Below are the worksheets we used to learn the vocabulary for things around the room. We played a ton of bingo to help them learn vocabulary.



Made by Liesl
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You can do something similar for whatever language your kids are learning. ☺

German

If your kids are starting to learn German here are some good posts to start with on our blog.

[Free German Worksheets for Beginners](#)

[Free German Worksheets for Kids](#)

[German for Kids – \(Free Worksheets\)](#)

[German Family Vocabulary Practice — die Familie](#)

[German Conversation Cards and Worksheets: Clothing – die Kleidung](#)

[German Conversation Practice Set: Weather, Days of the Week, Months, Seasons Illness/Sickness](#)



[German Unit: Freizeit – Was machst du? \(Daily activities, hobbies\) das Haus Wortschatz and More!](#)

[German for Beginners: Weihnachtswörter – Christmas Words](#)

[German Worksheets: Valentinstag](#)

[German Worksheets: auf dem Land, der Bauernhof \(in the country, the farm\)](#)

[German Curriculum Units for Kids \(Advanced Beginners\)](#)

Spanish

If your kids are starting to learn Spanish, we have a number of free worksheet packets here:

[Free Spanish Worksheets](#)

[Daily Calendar in Spanish! La Página de calendario de Hoy](#)

[Spanish Fruit and Vegetable Cards: Tarjetas para clasificar las frutas y los vegetales](#)

[Free Spanish Worksheets for Kids: Fall Words and Colors](#)

[Free Spanish Worksheet: Parts of the Body – El Cuerpo](#)

[Free Spanish Worksheets: Christmas Words – Palabras de Navidad](#)

[Free Spanish Worksheets: Valentine’s Day – Día de San Valentín](#)

[Free Spanish Worksheets for Kids: In the Garden! ¡En el jardín!](#)

Free Spanish Worksheet
the body- el cuerpo

the body- el cuerpo

1. Codo 2. codos
2. La frente
3. Ojo 2 ojos
4. Oreja 2 orejas
5. La boca
6. Los labios
7. Los dientes
8. El cuello
9. El pecho
10. Los brazos
11. Mano 2 manos
12. El estómago
13. La rodilla
14. La pierna
15. Los pies
16. Los dedos

1. Eyebrows
2. Forehead
3. Eye/s
4. Ear/s
5. Mouth
6. Lips
7. Neck
8. Neck

the body- el cuerpo

1 ceja 2 cejas	La frente	1 ojo 2 ojos	la boca
los labios	los dientes	el cuello	1 oreja 2 orejas
el pecho	los brazos	1 mano 2 manos	el estómago
la rodilla	la pierna	los pies	los dedos

ceja, la frente, ojo, oreja, la boca, los labios, los dientes, el cuello, el pecho, los brazos, mano, el estómago, la rodilla, la pierna, los pies, los dedos

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