

Important tips for parents

Parents can strengthen their children's language skills in the family language at home using digital media, while showing them how to use media properly and safely.

- › Establish rules for using digital media together with your child (e.g., screen time, use of age-appropriate apps) and explain the potential dangers of the internet (e.g., using messaging apps or chat functions in online games).
- › Research (together) suitable, age-appropriate resources in the family languages (e.g., digital books, learning apps, educational programs, podcasts). Encourage your child to use such resources and integrate them into your everyday family life.
- › Show your child how to use digital tools for reading (e.g., read-aloud function, translation apps) and writing (e.g., spell check/grammar check, AI assistants) in the family languages.



No. 8 – Achieving multilingualism ... with digital media

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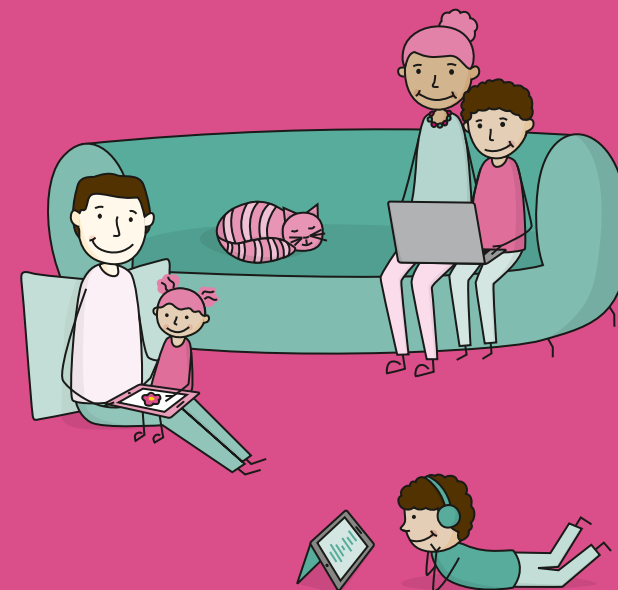


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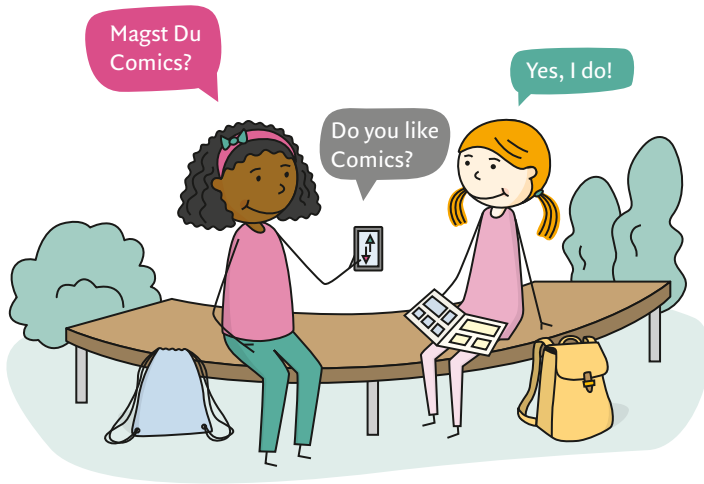
Achieving multilingualism ... with digital media

8

SCIENCE FOR LIFE
Facts – Research – Information
for Parents and Teachers

Why are digital skills important?

The use of digital media in the family and at school ties in with the daily lives of children and teenagers. At the same time, in a globalized world, competent and multilingual use of digital media is a prerequisite for social participation and many professional fields. Acquiring these skills is a task for both school and family.



What is the potential of digital media?

The use of digital media is closely linked to language. Digital media often cover all areas of language use (writing, reading, listening, speaking). They facilitate access to information in numerous languages and multilingual communication. For example, families can strengthen their family language skills and communication with family members by using multilingual educational resources. Teachers can more easily integrate learners' family language resources into their lessons by using digital media.

Promoting multilingual skills digitally

Digital media offer many opportunities to promote multilingual skills, while also building digital skills

Digital picture books:

- › Multilingual (picture) books can be read aloud in daycare, school, or at home. This helps to preserve and develop family languages alongside German. Read-aloud functions are helpful if educators do not speak the languages.
- › At school, children can create multilingual books themselves, using their entire language repertoire.

Podcasts / audio resources:

- › Through audiobooks, music, or podcasts, children and teenagers can explore topics that interest them in multiple languages.
- › At school, they can analyze multilingual songs or record their own audio files.

Social media:

- › On social media, children and teenagers can consume and produce multilingual content themselves.
- › Certain offerings deliberately address topics related to multilingualism and language awareness.

Apps and tools to support multilingual projects in schools and classrooms:

- › During a story walk, students can read stories aloud in their family languages. These are made audible via QR code.
- › Using GPS apps, students can participate in interactive digital tours or develop their own. This allows them to show and experience how many languages are visible in their neighborhood, for example on signs or in shops.

How can digital media help in German as a second language classes?

Digital media are a particularly useful teaching resource when working with newly arrived learners and their parents. Translation apps, digital dictionaries, and text-generating AI offer teachers effective ways to communicate basic information about learning content and school organization. AI tools are often easy to handle and can also be used individually by learners in class, for example:

- › to translate individual terms or entire texts,
- › to quickly and easily convert written texts into audio files,
- › to transcribe video and audio files into different languages.

An AI-supported program thus becomes a personal language learning companion. Therefore, the individual support needs of multilingual children and young people in the areas of alphabetization and literacy can be better and more easily addressed through digital learning opportunities. Currently, more and more digital tools and learning apps are being developed that enable individual language diagnostics as well as adaptive and multilingual learning.

