



Family Connections through Home Languages

Home languages play an important role in maintaining communication and relationships with family.

Sharing family histories, experiences, and cultural stories in families' home languages can strengthen children's speaking skills. Children can gain a stronger sense of who they are when they have conversations with their families in their home languages. Language is, after all, an important part of our identity.

Encourage families to use their home language(s) to:

- Share family stories orally
- Sing favorite songs
- Read books together
- Read signs, labels, or other visuals in the environment
- Discuss events, stories, movies, or games
- Show children how to do something
- Create art or crafts

Rich cultural and linguistic interactions can bolster children's sense of themselves and their primary language skills. Children can master a language and academic learning when their primary language and culture are stronger.

For more resources to strengthen connections with families, visit wida.wisc.edu/teach/learners/engagement

