

# All the languages I know



## Context:

- The activity takes place in a fourth and fifth class of the European School in Brussels ([www.eeb1.eu](http://www.eeb1.eu)). The ES are multicultural and multilingual institutions for children from all EU countries. The language of the section is French, but there are also bilingual/plurilingual children and children with many different home languages.
- The children discuss the reasons for placing the flags on the different parts of the figure. They explain their attitudes to languages, the different circumstances in which they use a certain language, why they like some languages more than others, they also think about other languages they would like to learn, etc. (→ language learning is a process).

## Reasons for choosing this activity:

- The main aims are to make children become aware of their linguistic repertoires; the roles of different languages in their lives; to motivate them to learn new languages.

## Description:

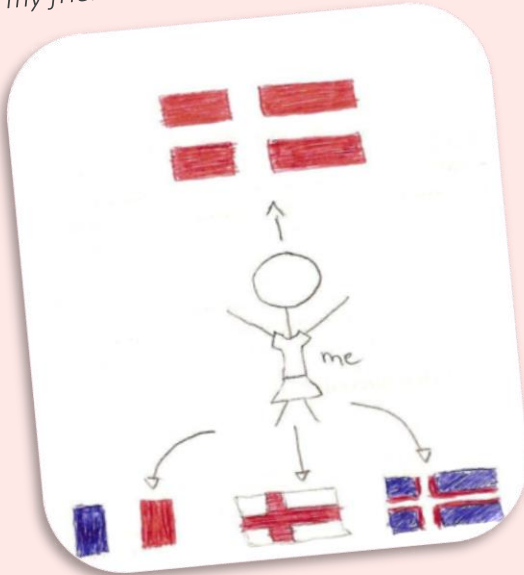
- The teacher talks with the children about the languages they use. The children reflect on their language repertoires. **They talk about the languages they understand, speak, listen and/or write; which languages they use with whom;** etc. (→ meaningful language learning; actively relying on linguistic repertoires).
- As individual work, each child draws a figure. He/she places the flags representing his/her languages on the relevant parts of the body according to the **personal use of these languages**.

## Variation:

- In another class, instead of drawing the colours of the flags, the children use pictograms in different languages placing them on the relevant parts of the figure.

## Observation:

It's me. And the most important language for me is Danish. I come from Denmark so that's why Danish is an important language for me. My family speaks Danish and almost all my friends speak Danish.



Then there are the three other languages i speak. They are less important then Danish for me. But I still talk those language in a normal day, except Norwegian that's only when i'm with my friend from Norway. A part of my family is French so when i see them i talk French to them.

The heart is Spanish because I feel Spanish. The brain is French. But it doesn't mean that I think in French, I just have to use a lot the French to live in Belgium. The feet are Belgian, because I live in Belgium. The hands are English, because English language is important to communicate with people quite often.

