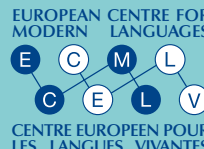




ECML PROGRAMME  
2016-2019  
Languages at the  
heart of learning



# Inspiring language learning and teaching in the early years

## Why it matters and what it looks like for children age 3-12



[www.ecml.at/inspiringearlylearning](http://www.ecml.at/inspiringearlylearning)

This website is packed with resources and strategies for teachers and educators to help young children to develop their linguistic and intercultural competences. These take account of the linguistic repertoires of children – the different languages they encounter at home, at school and in society – so that they can engage successfully with linguistic and cultural diversity.

### Team

Flore Schank, Ingeborg Birnie, Déirdre Kirwan, Dana Musilova, Jakob Patekar

### The resources are for

- teachers
- teacher educators in the preprimary and primary sectors

### Resources



Six guiding principles for early language learning



Inspiring stories about language learning in different contexts



Resources and practical examples for inspiring language learning



A 'myth or fact' quiz, FAQs



Reading recommendations on the benefits, for young children, of learning languages



# Take a closer look

## Six principles to guide inspiring language learning in the early years

The principles help to create a common understanding of what characterises inspiring language learning for young children and frames their early language learning in an educational setting (crèche, kindergarten, preschool, primary school).

- Language learning actively relies on the existing linguistic repertoire of each child
- Language learning is holistic
- Language learning is meaningful
- Language learning is active learning
- Language learning is an ongoing process
- Language learning is continuous and integrated

## Inspiring practice

A selection of **Inspiring stories about language learning** are presented for 3 age groups: 3 to 6 year olds, 6 to 9 and 9 to 12.

A series of **resources for inspiring language learning** offer learning and teaching methods as well as concrete didactic resources (games, books, websites, ICT tools etc.) illustrating how the guiding principles may be brought to life.

## Quiz & FAQs

**'Myth or fact' quiz:** teachers, educators and parents often have preconceived ideas about languages and language learning. This quiz is an opportunity to explore these ideas and to reflect on whether they are true or not.

Teachers **frequently ask questions** about coping with multilingual classes and are worried about how to deal with linguistic diversity – including children's linguistic repertoires in their classrooms. This section on the website provides responses to these concerns.

A video inviting users to reconsider assumptions about plurilingualism is available on the website.

### Age 3-6 years



1001 stories to tell



Let's beat the hungry monster



Let's play and talk together



One, two, trois, quatre, fünf, sechs

5. Children get confused if they learn more than one language at the same time.

Myth

Fact