

Tips for families

Children learn language by having it all around them. That means using it in everyday life. Children need to see and hear adults using the language in real communication.

By using your language you are passing it on from one generation to another. Through speaking your language, you're passing on values, beliefs and traditions as well as the language itself.

- Speak your language at home. Every little bit helps. Even if you only know a little, use what you know.
- Speak to babies. Start speaking to them in your language when they are in the womb. Sing traditional songs to them. Research shows that the earlier you start teaching language, the greater the impact.
- Invite people who are fluent in the language to your home. Ask them to speak the language when they come.
- Have an Indigenous language only night once a week. Turn off the TV and sing songs, tell stories or play games together.
- Use your language in everyday activities, like sewing, washing dishes, stacking wood, etc.



Celebrate Indigenous Languages Month

- Tell children stories about when you were young. Ask grandparents to tell stories of their childhood.
- If you can, bring home books in your language. You can also make simple books using your language, like *My Family*.
- Teach your children at least one new word every day. Ask your children to repeat the word three times in a row, in different ways if possible. And don't stick to words only, use the words in sentences.
- Go out in the bush, fishing, berry picking, hunting. There's lots of language on the land!

