



First language lessons

Because multilingualism is a treasure!

Support your child's language competence and enrol them in first language classes.

Your child has the opportunity to learn and develop their first or family language at school. This is important, as strong first language skills have a positive impact on your child's learning and personal development.

What benefits are there?

- Your child will further develop their language skills in the areas of speaking, reading and writing. They will learn to read books and write texts in the first language. Your child will acquire learning strategies that will also help them learn other languages and broaden their knowledge of the world.
- Families very often talk about everyday topics. First language lessons will give your child the opportunity to widen their vocabulary and develop their language of education as well. Your child needs this vocabulary when, for example, they have to describe an experiment or explain a maths problem.
- Strong language skills in both German and the first language will give your child better job chances,

for example in Austrian organisations that work internationally, or when studying or working abroad. With better language skills your child will also be able to understand media written in the first language and communicate more easily with family and friends.

- Your child will learn about the countries where the first language is spoken. This knowledge can be used with the first language teacher, to connect it to life in Austria.

Can my child take part?

Yes, if you would like your child to further develop their first language skills. It does not matter how well your child already speaks the language.

How are first language lessons organized?

- Participation in first language lessons is voluntary and free of charge.
- Please ask the head teacher of your child's school for information regarding the availability of lessons in your language.
- The lessons usually take place once a week for 2 or 3 hours. Sometimes it could be more.
- If there are several pupils in one school with the same first language, the first language lessons could be integrated into the regular school day. This means that the first language teacher and the other teachers teach together.
- First language lessons in primary school are an optional activity, which means that your child will not be given a grade. However, 'participated' will be noted on the school report. In middle, academic secondary, vocational and other secondary schools, the first

language lessons could be an optional subject. In this case, the pupils will be given a grade.

Are you interested?

Then please do the following:

- Talk to your child about the benefits of first language lessons.
- Complete the registration form, which you can get from your child's school.
- If you have any questions, please contact the head teacher. You may also contact your local Board of Education (Bildungsdirektion).
- Motivate your child to regularly attend their first language lessons.



People to contact at the local Boards of Education about first language lessons:

<https://www.schule-mehrsprachig.at>



Curricula for first language teaching:

<https://www.schule-mehrsprachig.at/service/lehrplaene>



First language lessons strengthen the identity and self-image of children and young people.



This flyer is available at www.schule-mehrsprachig.at.

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In cooperation with: Zentrum Sprachliche Bildung im Kontext von Migration und Mehrsprachigkeit – BIMM, www.bimm.at.

An initiative of the Bundesministerium für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Forschung – BMBWF, A- 1010 Vienna, Minoritenplatz 5, www.bmbwf.gv.at

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Design and layout: Info-Media, 1010 Vienna. **Cover photo:** istockphoto/kali9. All rights reserved.

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