

Family language-learning research checklist

Use this from home to choose the right language, course and weekly practice plan before paying for a long programme or adding pressure to the family move.

MOVING FROM	DESTINATION / CITY	PLANNING CURRENCY	LAST CHECKED
_____	_____	_____	_____

HOW TO USE

Read the linked SettleHappy guide first. Tick an item when the answer or evidence is saved in your own move folder. Recheck volatile facts before paying or applying.

1 Give every language a job

- ☐ List the languages used by the intended school, building, clinic, employer, household support and immediate neighbourhood.
- ☐ Separate survival, courtesy, school-support, work, literacy, heritage and long-term fluency goals for each family member.
- ☐ Choose one shared first language and add another only when it has a named weekly use; record the exact regional variety where relevant.
- ☐ Write six situations each adult and child should manage after one month, then six broader situations for the six-month review.

2 Check the teacher and course

- ☐ Confirm current intake, public eligibility, campus or lesson location, weekly hours, class size, level, placement method, materials and complete price.
- ☐ Ask which national or regional variety is taught, how pronunciation is corrected, when literacy begins and how progress is assessed.
- ☐ For a private tutor, run a paid trial using a real family scenario and request references, cancellation terms and a written four-week plan.
- ☐ For children, confirm safeguarding, parental presence, age-appropriate methods and coordination with school language expectations.

3 Make the timetable work in real life

- ☐ Plot every lesson against the likely home-school-work route, peak traffic, weather disruption, term breaks and adult travel.
- ☐ Choose a manageable week: live instruction, short review sessions, listening and one predictable, low-pressure use in real life.
- ☐ Keep online lessons available through the move, then add local listening and feedback after arrival; avoid relying on passive app streaks alone.
- ☐ Set a three-month budget and a point to review the course so prepayment does not keep the family in a poor-fit programme.

4

Practise safely as a family

- ☐ Save names, address, allergies, urgent help, school handover and emergency-contact language offline, with competent translation where accuracy is critical.
- ☐ Use a qualified interpreter for important medical, legal, employment, immigration and safeguarding conversations; language learning is not informed consent.
- ☐ Practise with willing teachers, friends and familiar businesses rather than treating staff or strangers as unpaid lesson material.
- ☐ Let children listen before performing, keep correction kind and never make a child the family's default interpreter for adult decisions.

5

Review useful progress, not fluency promises

- ☐ Keep a monthly recording or writing sample and mark the chosen situations as independent, supported or not yet manageable.
- ☐ Record recurring misunderstandings from real life and turn them into the next lesson instead of collecting unrelated vocabulary.
- ☐ Review whether the chosen language and variety still match the actual school, city, relationships and likely length of stay.
- ☐ Continue, change teacher, reduce intensity or add a second language based on useful progress and family capacity-not sunk cost or a promised fluency date.

Information, not regulated immigration, legal, tax, financial or medical advice. Verify current requirements with issuing authorities, providers and appropriately qualified advisers.