



# Bilingual Options

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## Snippets for Bilingual Families Issue 2017 / 3

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**Content:** [German-with-kids internet resources](#)  
[Bilingual Avenue](#)  
[Raising Children in More than One Language](#)  
["Should I pretend not to understand?"](#)  
[On the road again](#)



### *"German with kids" internet resources*

The updated 2017 German Resources and Information list is now available on Germanwithkids.com. Germanwithkids.com is a German resources website for families with German-speaking children abroad. It has enjoyed a lot of development since its start in 2016. Many families abroad are eager to learn and foster the German language at home, but are often confronted with difficulties to find useful material when venturing in the jungle of the internet. This website offers well researched information and resources to maintain and develop the German culture and language with children. German teachers abroad will also find plenty of ideas.

New entries on the updated list include:

- The global inventory of German Kindergarten Abroad (Verzeichnis Deutscher Kindergärten im Ausland)
- The German Learning to Read Program (Lesestart Förderprogramm - 3 Meilensteine für das Lesen)
- Reading Foundation (Stiftung Lesen) with book proposals for children
- Learn German with Fun – a German as a second & foreign language blog with resources
- Sing with Me (Sing mit mir) – a children's song channel with subtitles
- Nine-and-a-half (Neuneinhalb - deine Reporter) a news report TV program for children
- The SBS German Radio podcasts with book and music suggestions for children
- Cornelsen and Fischer publishers with German as second language German learning school materials
- The online children's book rental portal 'KinderBooks' in the USA

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- Playgroups Australia – the search platform to find or register a German language playgroup and other regional playgroups
- And a list of German language offers in New Zealand

On Facebook and on the website you can find information about German with kids abroad and news on other like-minded groups. The information about Germanwithkids is kindly supported and distributed by the Swiss, German and Austrian Clubs, the GOETHE Institute, the German International School, Educationsuisse, Froebel child care Australia and other organisations.

Enjoy browsing the updated list and don't hesitate to send in further ideas and tips.

Greetings from Sydney and thank you for distributing the information.

Links: [www.Germanwithkids.com](http://www.Germanwithkids.com), [germanwithkids@gmail.com](mailto:germanwithkids@gmail.com),  
[www.facebook.com/germanwithkids](http://www.facebook.com/germanwithkids)

*And a big thank you from me to the organisers of Germanforkids for passing this information on to me.*



### **"Bilingual Avenue"**

I would like to draw your attention to an interesting website from the US, which supports parents who raise their children bilingually: <https://www.bilingualavenue.com/> It features lots of podcasts on a wide range of topics, a newsletter and a blog. Marianne is very personable and would love to hear from you.



### **Raising Children in More Than One Language**

This is a pre-announcement of our free annual seminar. It will be held at Melbourne Uni in the afternoon of Sunday the 19th of November from 12:30 to 5. Please keep the afternoon free if you are interested in attending and keep an eye out for details in the next Snippets at the beginning of November.



### **"Should I pretend not to understand?"**

The initial promoters of infant bilingualism suggested that parents should create a quasi-monolingual environment and simply pretend not to understand when the child spoke to them in the "wrong" language. More recently people have said that this is not actually fair. I side with the latter position. Your young child is trying her hardest to communicate with you. It would indeed be unfair not to appreciate this. Here are some alternative strategies:

1. Repeat what your child has said to you in your language. However, don't make it a lesson. Make it sound like positive feedback, then extend the topic so that she hears the word or word combination a few more times: "sí, es un gato. ¿Qué hace el gato? El gato se esconde." [yes, it's a cat. What is the cat doing? The cat is hiding]
2. If that's not enough to swing your child back to using your language, you could draw his attention to the issue of language choice more forcefully: "ja, Mama sagt *cat*, aber ich sag Katze." [yes, mum says *cat*, but I say *Katze*.] Please note that this starts with an affirmation of what your child has just said, not a correction.

3. If you also ask your child to repeat the word in question, there is a much better chance that he will use it spontaneously next time: "Kannst du *Katze* sagen?" [can you say *cat*?] If he does, great! But still extend the topic in a way that gives both of you the chance to use the word a few more times.

4. If she does not or outwardly refuses to say the missing word in your language, assume that it is too hard and continue with step 2.

5. For the older and/or more capable child you may achieve a switch back to your language by saying: "that's a daddy word. What does Mummy say." You say that in your language of course. Btw, grandparents or babysitters can use the same strategy referring to the child's mum or dad.

Usually these strategies work quite well from around 2 years of age when a child is learning about possessions. By 3 years of age, most children are able to talk about languages as English, or German or Spanish or whatever it is you are speaking at home.



### *On the road again*

My husband and I are off to a late start since we did the volunteering part of our winter escape in an Aboriginal community in the Northern Territory this year.

Now it is back to Europe to visit our sons in Berlin and London, to celebrate the older one's wedding and to cuddle our little granddaughter. I am so pleased that she too will be bilingual in German and English. Even the most Anglo section of his wife's extended family keep pointing out the benefits of bilingualism to the new parents.

I will still be able to read emails and respond to inquiries. From November I will be available for appointments again.



Have a wonderful winter,

*Susanne*