Learning Foreign Languages at Home

Whether your student is 4 or 14, learning a second language is good for both his brain and his academic record! There are several different ways you can pursue a foreign language in your homeschool.

To get started, check out this excellent overview of how to teach yourself a foreign language by Dr. Steven Hake, a literature professor at Patrick Henry College and a missionary to Taiwan for 20 years:
www.phc.edu/academics/liberalarts/literature/Essay13.pdf

Classes:

- If your co-op doesn't already have a language class going, start one! Get your whole family learning with an age-integrated language class!
    - Check with your local or state homeschool support group to locate existing co-ops in your area.
    - HSLDA's list of local homeschool groups: www.hslda.org/orgs/default.asp#State
- Have your high schooler take language classes at the local community college for dual credit. www.50states.com/cc

Log in:

- *Auralog* offers a homeschool version of their Tell Me More program that includes student tracking, options to create worksheets and answer keys, and speech recognition technology that corrects pronunciation. www.tellmemore.com
- *The BBC* has a language page where you can get beginning instruction and learn phrases in numerous languages. Includes online courses, audio and video resources, as well as photos and links to outside sources. (Make sure you screen any external websites.) www.bbc.co.uk/languages/
- *Learn Language Now*, an immersive program, uses phrases, stories, and videos in the desired language. www.transparent.com/products/languagenow.htm
- *The Lukeion Project* offers live online classes for classical languages from a Christian perspective. www.lukeion.org
- *Power-Glide* offers self-paced online language courses that focus on immersive techniques and use graphics, video, music, and games. www.power-glide.com
- *Rosetta Stone*, an immersive language-learning software, offers a homeschool version of their software that gives parents administrative options to track student activity and progress. Includes speech recognition technology, interactive activities, grammar and spelling components, and simulated conversations. www.rosettastone.com/homeschool

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Texts:

- Many major curriculum companies publish foreign language texts.
    - ABeka
      www.abeka.org
    - Accelerated Christian Education
      www.aceministries.com
    - Alpha Omega Press
      www.aophomeschooling.com
    - Bob Jones University Press
      www.bjupress.com
    - Calvert School
      www.calvertschool.org/home-school
- Carpe linguam latinam! *Home School Heartbeat* offers a resource sheet for teaching Latin, which you can request by emailing heartbeat@hslda.org.

Audio and visual resources

- Audio-forum
  www.audioforum.com
- Early Advantage (BBC's Muzzy language course)
  www.early-advantage.com
- The Learnables
  www.learnables.com/homeschool.html
- Teach Me: Learning language through songs and stories
  www.teachmetapes.com
- Twin Sisters Productions
  www.twinsisters.com
- World of Reading
  www.wor.com

Speakers:

- If you live near a university or college, see if you can get involved in a program to "adopt" foreign students.
- Teach an English for Speakers of Other Languages class!
    - http://writing.colostate.edu/guides/teaching/esl/
    - www.teaching-esl-to-adults.com/how-to-start-teaching-esl.html
    - Check for established ESOL programs in local churches or through your library system.
- Volunteer at a food pantry to meet international families.
- Find an international church or a local church that has a service in another language—check your phone book!
- Sponsor a child in a third-world country. Although field workers will translate your letters, you also get your sponsored child's original letter.
    - www.compassion.com
    - www.worldvision.org
- Correspond with a missionary.
- Sign up for a foreign language pen pal.
  www.world-pen-pals.com

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