



Creating Your **German** Immersion Plan

How to plan for bilingual success in your family

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A note about this book

This book has been written for use by parents of children of all ages who are speaking (or are planning to speak) German at home. I've tried to include a large variety of examples in the text from very young children to older school-age kids. It's my hope that you can take the information in these examples and apply it to your own family situation as best suits your needs. Please do take this plan and make it work for you. If you find that one of the ideas would work better for you if you did it bit differently, then please do so.

Also, I've used both "he" and "she" when referring to individual children in this book. Again, please read with an eye to your own children, modifying as necessary.

Do I really need to plan for bilingualism?

For many people, raising bilingual kids may come easily. It may just work into who they are and how they function as a family. These people may not need to put such structured effort into German. But for many others, it does not come easily. It is especially challenging with a language such as German where there isn't a large German-speaking community that you can turn to for support. This book is written for those people.

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Why Plan?

Last year I fully intended to grow a vegetable garden.

Visions of juicy ripe tomatoes, crisp green beans and cool cucumbers filled my head. I perused the seed catalogs and checked out the large inventory of gardening paraphernalia in the garage. Winter turned to spring and spring turned to summer. Before I knew it, it was July. Where had the first half of the year gone? And, you guessed, it, I was no closer to a vegetable garden than a lonely potted tomato plant.

It's not hard to see where I went wrong.

I neglected to plan out my garden. All the dreams in the world won't plant a garden. It takes a little planning, preparation and timing to make it happen. The same is true when raising a bilingual family. If you don't plan your way to bilingualism, you may find time has slipped through your fingers and it's a lot harder to accomplish your goals than you expected.

Why should I plan?

1. To articulate your expectations, hopes and dreams.

When you say you're raising a bilingual family, what does that mean to you? Do you want your child to be able to converse as a tourist in a German-speaking country? Do you want him to be comfortable with German friends and family? Do you expect to move back to Germany in the future? Should he be able to read and write in German? Bilingualism has different levels and each family will have its own set of goals. If you haven't thought about your goals, you may realize you're on a path that won't satisfy your expectations.

2. To get each parent's goals in the open.

If you haven't thought out and planned for your family's bilingualism, then how can your spouse know what you're working toward? When each parent participates in the planning process, you can work together to find the best expectations for your family. When everyone is on the same page, it's much easier to prioritize and budget for any materials you need, make decisions about schooling and plan overseas trips.

3. To see any gaps and fill them in.

It's a lot of work to raise a bilingual child and the more support you have the better. If there isn't a local community, you can plan upfront to substitute trips, German lessons or

extra German language books. If you're not planning, you're just hoping that things will work out and you may be missing important work that you'll need to help your child progress toward your goal.

4. To give yourself and your family the best chance to achieve your goals.

If you write down a goal, you're more likely to make it happen. The act of writing it down makes your brain give it a whole lot more attention. When a goal is "on your radar screen" you'll be a lot more likely to work toward it.

But I hate to plan!

It can be intimidating to think about planning out such an important aspect of your family's future. But your plan doesn't have to be written in stone and you can always change it along the way to suit your needs. Remember, your plan is supposed to help you, not stress you out. In fact, this is another important benefit of a plan - it may bring up unrealistic expectations. If your goals and plan are causing you a lot of stress, you should revisit your plan and make some changes.

Think about it. If you are going on vacation, you don't just get in the car and drive in any random direction. No - you pick a destination, map your route, buy your tickets and pack your bags. Neglecting planning out your family's route to bilingualism is like going on vacation without a destination. You're likely to get lost.

How can I plan so far ahead?

You can only take your best guess. You don't have to write out a detailed plan for the next 15 years of your child's life. Your plan should fit your family and suit your needs. It can be as specific or as general as you want it to be. It will certainly change over time. But if you neglect to make a plan at all, you may not achieve your goals and you might not even realize it until it's too late.

Summary

1. Planning forces you to articulate your goals.
2. Planning gets parents on the same page.
3. Planning gives you a greater chance of success.
4. Look for gaps and fill them in.
5. Revisit your goals and plan yearly.

Planning now saves time later and rescues your goals from the swamp of lost opportunity.

Come July, I plan to be harvesting a bumper crop of tomatoes. My garden planning will begin with plenty of time in the winter. But my planning for language goals has already begun. I want to give my kids the best possible chance at bilingualism that I can. How about you? Are you planning for bilingual success?

Erzähl mir eine Geschichte! Tell me a story!

At our house, we have a geometry book for young kids. It's not your typical geometry book - no formulas or proofs here - but rather it teaches through the use of a story. It's called *Sir Cumference and the First Round Table*. My kids love this book - it's silly and the plot, a knock-off of the story of King Arthur, is fun to read.

The most amazing thing about this book is that once you've read it, you'll *remember* lots of important facts about the geometry of a circle! It makes learning unfamiliar words like *circumference* and *radius* easy. No boring textbook definitions here. It's all done in the context of the story.

A story is a powerful tool whether you're teaching geometry or German.

If you tell your kids stories about how you learned German and why you want them to know it, you'll generate a connection that will spur further interest and learning.

Before you can start to plan, you need to lay out your story.

What's the history behind your interest in German? Did you grow up speaking German? Learn it in college? Is your spouse a native German speaker? Do you have family in Europe?

The story behind your family's interest in German has a tremendous influence on how you go about incorporating German in your life.

If you grew up speaking German, you'll have different goals and dreams than someone who learned it in college. If you are a native speaker, you'll be working from a different place than someone who is at a different level of fluency.

Your kids need to hear this story!

They need to hear why you love German. They need to hear all about the relatives you have back in Europe or your funny Uncle Fritz or the time you spent the summer in youth hostels in Austria. You must tell them how German has been important in your career or when you travel. As you tell them these stories, German will come alive for them and they'll begin to understand why it's so important to you.

Tell them the story and tell them often.

If you don't have a native speaker in the house (or perhaps even if you do), it may be challenging for the kids at some point to continue conversing in German; if they have the

family story grounding your commitment, it will help them bridge the gap and stick with it when things are difficult. It will also remind you why you've chosen this path and give you additional motivation to maintain the German in your family.

Step 1: Craft your story

Spend some time on your own and with your family thinking about why German is important to you. Use our *Story* worksheet to create a brief statement with your values and reasons to help guide the rest of the planning process.

You are here.

Have you ever looked at a subway map in an unfamiliar city? It's got lines running in all directions, color-coded directions, timetables, a legend; on the whole it's very confusing. If you're looking for the right track, however, it's not very hard to know where to start – you look for the big red dot with the label that says, “You are here.” That's your starting point.

Crafting a bilingual family plan is a lot like riding the subway in an unfamiliar city.

There are tons of things to consider – what if my German isn't good enough? How can I coax my child to speak more? We really should buy some more books. Do we need to find some more German-speaking friends? Could we plan a trip to Switzerland this year? (Sense impending panic attack...) But wait – you don't have to solve all these problems at once. What you need to do is to figure out where you are.

Locate your language starting point.

Spend some time assessing each individual child's German fluency. How strong is his German? Does your child respond in German when asked a question? Does he listen to age-appropriate books? Is he reading in German yet? What are his strengths and weaknesses?

Once you've done this task for each child, think about the family as a whole.

What elements of German are working well for your family? Which pieces need help? Perhaps you're happy with the amount of German conversation in your house but you feel that you need to find more time for reading. Perhaps you want to find a daily time to enjoy some German music or spend some time in personal study. Perhaps you find that you want to increase your children's vocabulary. All these observations go onto the *What's Working... What's Not* worksheet. The strengths go on under *What's Working* and the weaknesses under *What's Not*.

This worksheet isn't meant to make you feel terrible, just to identify the areas where your family needs work. Plus, you aren't meant to necessarily fix all your problems at once, just lay them out so you can decide what to address.

This is actually my favorite tool in the planning process.

It forces you to acknowledge your strengths along with your weaknesses. When you start, you may think you don't have many strengths, but as you start listing things, your *What's Working* column will probably grow just as long as the *Not* column.

Step 2 – Locate your language starting point

Use the *Starting Point* worksheet to get a baseline of where your children are. Make it as brief or as detailed as you like. I've included a few questions on it to get you started. Share it with your spouse.

Then complete the *What's Working...What's Not* worksheet, either alone or with your spouse. Once you've done this, you will probably have a lot of ideas about what you can do to address your weak areas. List these in the *Things to Do* section.

It's very reassuring to find that big red dot on the subway map when the world is rushing by around you. The same is true when you locate your child's own language starting point.

Bring in the Kids

Up until this point, you've been working and brainstorming alone, or perhaps with your spouse. Now it's time to invite your kids into the planning process.

First get some snacks.

We love any reason to have treats. And what better way to get everyone in a good mood and in a positive, cooperative mindset than to set out some delicious *Kuchen* or *Plätzchen* (cookies), some milk or tea and invite everyone to the table.

Once everyone's happily indulging, you can tell them you want their help with your blueprint.

Why have kids help with planning?

1. Involving kids helps to get their buy-in.

If you're going to make changes in your family activities and routines, it's a good idea to help your kids feel like they have some input in the process. If you've already told them your *German Story*, they'll understand *why* German is important. Now you'll work together to help move your family's use of German forward. If they feel like they have some say in the process, they're more likely to be cooperative or even enthusiastic about the changes you make.

2. Kids may identify creative solutions to the problems you're facing.

Kids don't come to the table with all the mental baggage and pre-conceived notions like adults do. If German hasn't been easy for you, you may feel weighed down by a sense of failure. But your kids may be able to remind you of all the progress you've made as a family and be able to come up with some great new ideas about how you can improve. If you give them the chance, kids may be willing to volunteer for things they wouldn't normally do if you just told them to do it.

My middle son, Max, has been helping our littlest child, Jack, with a German CD-ROM. I'm sure if I told him to do it, he'd be less enthusiastic but since it was his idea, he's very excited to be "teaching" Jack some new German.

How can kids help in this process?

If your kids are old enough and you want to, you can go through the *What's Working / What's Not* exercise with them. It may be fun and insightful to find out what elements of German they think are useful in your house.

If you want to keep it simpler, just pick one thing you want to work on (from your *Not Working* list) and ask your kids for ideas on how to help solve the problem. Giving them a specific issue will help focus the discussion and hopefully identify some good ideas.

What if my child comes up with an idea I'm not willing to accept?

Above all, you need to listen. Give her a chance to air her feelings. If your child finds it very difficult to chat with Oma during your Sunday phone call, do acknowledge her feelings. If that's the way she feels, it's only counterproductive to downplay her problem. Instead, acknowledge the issue and see if you can come up with a solution together. With the phone call problem, maybe you can ask Oma to speak more slowly or coach your child into relating a story that she has the fluency to tell.

By listening first, you show your child that you want him to succeed and enjoy German and that you're her partner in getting there.

Don't ask questions for things that you're not willing to accept their input on.

Don't make the mistake of putting everything up for grabs. If your kids attend German school and that's not negotiable, don't ask them whether they want to continue or not. But do be willing to listen to their feelings and see if you can make things easier if there's a problem.

Evaluate your commitments.

Hopefully, once you've crafted your *Story* you'll have a better idea of where your priorities concerning German lie. One family may find they want to invest a significant portion of their available time to pursuing German activities. They may decide not to have their children in organized sports so they'll have enough time for German club. Others may be happy with a simple daily German hour over dinner. Other families (and this is where I hope to eventually be) may find they don't need to prioritize it at all – it's just part of who they are and they're fully immersed.

All of these approaches are valid choices and you can be happy with any one of them.

The secret is making a conscious choice about where you want to be and then taking the steps to get there.

Step 3 – Brainstorm with your children

Invite them to a planning session complete with goodies and ask them for help with your German family immersion plan.

Set Some Goals

Now that you've articulated why you value German and elicited some family input, it's time to set some goals. Start modestly. Pick a few things that you think you can achieve within 6 months.

Pick goals that are concrete.

When you select concrete goals, it will be easy to know when you've achieved those goals.

Some examples for children are:

- Can hold a simple conversation in German with Oma
- Enjoys listening to a German book read by Dad
- Writes a letter a month to a German penpal
- Attends German school weekly
- Reads or listens to age-appropriate books in German.
- Uses German with Mom during mealtimes
- Work through level 1 of Rosetta Stone
- Takes second year German in high school.

You can also set goals for the entire family to work toward:

- Speak exclusively German on weekends or during meals
- Learn some popular German songs
- Read through Grimms' Maerchen together in the evenings.
- Take a trip to a German-speaking country.

If they're old enough, ask your kids to set some goals. Of course parents will need to support and help their children work toward their goals.

Why should I focus on the short-term?

You need to focus on short-term goals in order to break your larger goals into manageable chunks. If you were to have a goal like "raise my child to be a native-speaker of German," this is too large a goal to get started on. If you've been working toward this stated goal with little visible success, you may feel very discouraged. Large goals need to be broken into smaller pieces so that you can see the tangible steps you can take to make progress. I'm not saying you should forget your long-term goals, just that you should start out with something more manageable and short-term.

Schedule a review.

Tuck your goal worksheet in your planning folder and schedule a time for a 6 month review on your calendar. Busy parents know that six months can go by very quickly. Look back at your original plans. It's important to take stock after 6 months to see how you're doing, what's been accomplished, and what needs to be revised. It will be very rewarding to see the progress you've made and take note of your accomplishments!

Step 4 – Pick some concrete goals to work on for the next 6 months.

Use the *Goal-planning worksheet* to record your goals. Then schedule a review for 6 months in the future to evaluate your progress.

Make a Plan: Your German Immersion System

Now that you've got your goals in place, you need to decide how you're going to work toward them. The fact that you *have* a set of goals and you've articulated your reasons for working on German puts you in a great position to move forward.

The great thing about using German at home is that you can use the immersion method.

Of course if you're reading this book, you know this already, but it's worth repeating. You don't have to devote time exclusively to teaching German, although that may be part of your plan. Instead work it into the activities of your day and your week. Your children can learn German the same way they learned English – by hearing it and using it. And if you use it with them, they will start to understand and use it themselves (this of course is a much bigger topic and the subject of many books!).

Why do I need a system?

If you want to make strides towards a goal and you've got many responsibilities, as most parents do, you need a way to make sure you keep on track and moving in the right direction. A system will help you do this. Systems help build momentum. Once you've got momentum, it will be a whole lot easier to keep going.

It doesn't need to be complicated. With a pencil and a piece of paper you can map out your own personal German immersion system in an hour's time.

How do I create my own system?

For a system, you need the following elements:

- Some kind of schedule.
- Triggers.
- Resources.
- Accountability

Let's explore these in more detail.

Decide on a schedule.

It's important to understand that in the learning of any new skill, it's repetition and regular practice that's important. A half an hour of German a day, if that's all you can

manage, is better than 3 hours on Sunday. So try and find time each day for German. If possible, identify a large block of time where you can speak German with your child.

Maybe your family speaks German eat every meal, or while reading bedtime stories. Maybe you speak German while playing games on Friday nights and when you're home and you switch to English when you're out of the house. Maybe the children speak German with Oma whenever she's there. Maybe you schedule German DVDs for an hour every afternoon. You decide what works best for you and how much time you can manage.

Note that this is time that you will be speaking German. If your children are not yet responding in German, they may be using English. This is perfectly acceptable. You can work to encourage them to progress into being more comfortable speaking German.

What if my German isn't good enough to stick with it for (an hour, a meal, a day, etc.)?

Then you just do your best! There are no language police who will fault you for not sticking to 100% German. It's meant to serve you and if that means you need to switch to English to explain something, or end the German time early, that's OK. If you let your lack of fluency in German stress you out, you'll be likely to give up on the whole plan. If you keep pushing forward, you'll find that it will get easier and easier.

Help! I'm having trouble keeping to my schedule!

Adjusting to a new schedule can be difficult. You may want to ease into it gradually, implementing one or two new things each week. If after a week or two, you're still having a hard time, revise and see if you can make it work better for you. Remember, the schedule is a tool for you; you're not meant to be a slave to it.

As you get used to your schedule, switching to German at these times will become a habit.

After a few months of speaking German at the breakfast table, it will seem strange to everyone to speak English. Years ago, I used to drive over a certain bridge to take my oldest son to preschool and I would comment to him (in German) about the bridge and the water below. Now every time I drive over that bridge, I automatically switch to German with the kids. It feels strange to me to speak English in that situation. Similarly, I always spoke exclusively German to my children as babies. Now I find it feels weird to speak English to any baby. It's just my habit to speak German to them.

Your schedule will eventually become a routine and your children will start to insist on it.

Use triggers.

Sometimes you will switch to German not because of a specific time but because of a specific trigger. Triggers are events that you always associate with German. The nice thing about triggers is that once your German is “triggered,” you may stay in German mode for a while longer.

Some triggers could be:

- a phone call to Opa in Germany
- your child brings you a book in German; of course you’ll read it in German and probably keep speaking German when you’re done reading.
- Your child asks you a question about a topic where you know he has better German vocabulary than English.
- You are discussing something distinctly German (a favorite German song or character from a book, yummy Bratwurst, etc.).

In any of these situations, it would be easy and natural to switch to German. And once you’ve switched from English, it’s not hard to stay there for a while.

Assemble German language resources.

This is the fun stuff! You probably already have German books, and maybe some CDs or DVDs. Now’s the time to assess your collection and see if you need anything new. Do you have enough materials to challenge your child at the level he’s at right now? Do you need something new to spark his interest?

Resources go beyond just books and media.

Resources can include German-speaking friends, German school, cultural events, favorite German foods; anything that you can use to augment the influence of German in your family.

Most people must make a special effort to collect German language resources.

English resources will enter your house en masse, seemingly of their own accord. You couldn’t keep them out if you tried! But unless you live in the heart of a lively German community, you’ll have to seek out the books, newspapers, magazine, friends, schools, etc. that you want to support your family’s interest in German.

Don't forget one of the biggest resources you can provide – a trip to a German-speaking country.

In his college days, my husband used to drive a taxi in Munich. He mentioned to me he once drove a couple with their young daughter. The little girl was chattering away in the local dialect although the parents were obviously not fluent. The mother told him they had arrived just a week prior. The little girl had just picked up the language through playing with relatives. My husband would never have guessed she wasn't a native speaker – she was that good. With the right environment, children can progress that fast.

There's nothing like true and complete immersion to catapult your children's German (and your own) to new levels like a trip to Germany or Austria will do.

Other ways to create an immersion experience:

- German summer camp
- Guided trips to Europe for teens
- Host an exchange student
- Host German-speaking relatives. Encourage them to stay for several weeks and ask them to speak only German to your children. They may be tempted to try out their English with your children so let them know beforehand you're working on developing fluency and their influence will be a great help.

Consider accessibility.

When you're promoting the German resources in your home, you may find that some simple reorganization will go a long way. Put the German books at kid-level and keep a basket of German books out for easy browsing. Consider putting away the bulk of your English DVD collection for a while and encourage your kids to watch the German ones. Decide to keep only German CDs in the car. Change your homepage to a German website. This strategy toward accessibility will help make the switch into German an easy one when it happens and you may encounter fewer discussions about choosing an English resource over a German one.

Create accountability.

Do you know anyone who loves lists? I must admit that I love to-do lists. But the thing I love most about them is crossing items off the list. My lists help keep me accountable and on track.

How can you create accountability in your German immersion system?

You can use charts, journals, and friends to keep you accountable.

Charts. Your kids may enjoy a simple chart on the refrigerator where you make a check each time you do something on your goals list.

Reading log. A reading log is a specialized chart – ask your child to keep track of every book he reads. He'll love to see the list grow longer, especially if it's posted on a wall somewhere. Friends can admire his list, too, providing additional motivation to keep reading. To sweeten the deal, you can set a goal of a certain number of books and then offer a small reward.

Journals. A very enjoyable way to keep up with your system is to journal your progress. A few observations jotted down every day make an excellent record. It's also fun to look back through your journal later and see what how your children progressed.

Friends. Another great way to keep yourself accountable is to ask a friend for help. Let her know you have a particular goal and you'll report back to her (daily/weekly/etc.) on your progress. Your friend doesn't need to be a German speaker. Just knowing that you have to report back to her will help keep you going and working your plan.

Forums. If you're a member of a online bilingual parenting forum you can post your goals there. Ask the other forum members for help keeping up with your goals. Then come back to post your progress every day. Others in the forum can help cheer you on, give you advice when you need it and empathize when things are tough. It creates some good peer pressure, too. Once you know people are going to be looking for your post, you'll be more likely to stick to your plan.

Why do I need to build in accountability?

Let's face it – we all get tired, distracted, and just plain busy. If you're making some changes in your life with this plan, there will be a period of adjustment. Knowing that you'll need to report back later is a big motivator. These systems can keep you honest, so to speak, when your internal motivation may not. When you're planning to work German into your already busy day, you might be tempted to skip something in your plan. Having to report back helps make sure you don't.

Isn't this a lot of extra work? Can't I just plan for the German times and be done with it?

Accountability doesn't have to be a lot of work. It's actually quite motivating to report back to your group or your spouse (or your own to-do list!) that you've completed another day as planned. And if even you don't complete all the tasks you set for yourself, you can still acknowledge what you did get done. You'll get encouragement and support that will keep you going on a forward path.

Step 5 – Build a schedule, use triggers, collect resources and create accountability

Use our *Schedule Builder* worksheet to create a schedule. Then decide how you'll create accountability to help you and your family stick to your plan.

A Note about Personal Study

If you're not a native German speaker and you're not speaking at a nearly fluent level, I strongly encourage you to consider adding some form of structured personal study to your German immersion plan.

Why devote time to personal study?

When you invest time in your own personal advancement in German, it pays off in several ways. Personal study will:

- Motivate you to use German more and more often
- Improve your own fluency
- Show your kids it's important to you.
- Help you teach your kids

If you have the time in your schedule, you can take a community college course or find a local *Stammtisch*. Or maybe you'd prefer a more independent, self-directed approach. There are tons of online language resources, many of which are free, that you can work through to improve your own German. Another option is a few hours a week spent with Rosetta Stone software or other self-directed program.

The bottom line is that when you invest in your own German knowledge, it will pay off for the whole family.

Step 6 – Work in time for personal German study

Whether it's a continuing education course, the use of online resources, or language learning software, time spent in personal study will benefit not just you but the entire family.

Let's Review.

Here are the points we covered in this book:

1. Start with your story.

Everyone has a story behind their love for German to be in their lives. You need to uncover this story and tell it to your children.

2. Determine *where* you are.

Assess your current language situation. You can't create a map for the future if you don't know where you are. Note what's working and what's not in your current bilingual arrangements.

3. Involve the children.

Invite your kids to help plan in an age-appropriate way. They'll feel important, be more cooperative, and may have some excellent ideas you hadn't thought of.

4. Pick some goals.

Start small, write them down, and schedule a 6 month review.

5. Assemble your plan.

Create a schedule, assess your resources, and create accountability. Make sure to give yourself some time to adjust to the changes you're making. Accountability helps keep you on track.

6. Work in personal study.

If you're not operating at a fluent level, try and work in some time to improve your own German skills. This work will pay off for the entire family.

It's a marathon, not a sprint.

Now you have all the elements you need to create your own German immersion plan. You probably already knew most of this information already; it's the having the structure that will drive you forward and help you keep going.

Remember you don't have to be the perfect bilingual family – there isn't one!

A little German is much better than none. Even a half an hour a day is a good amount. You can always add more later, but it's much harder to start up again if you stop speaking German completely.

We're here for you!

At Alphabet Garten, our mission is to help you *grow* German-speaking kids. We love this stuff! Please let us know what you thought of this book and let us know if there's any way we can help you.

So what happens now?

I encourage you to take your time, read through everything and share it with your spouse. Work through the worksheets. Then you may want to set it aside for 3 or 4 days. Let all the ideas swirl around in your brain a bit. Then come back, finalize your plan and dive in!

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Starting Point

The purpose of this worksheet is to identify where each child is in terms of German fluency. This is useful for you as a record and will help you identify areas where you want to help your child progress.

Child's Name:

Age:

About how many hours a week does this child hear German?

General observations (child's understanding and use of German, any reading and writing skills)

Areas to work on

Date

What's Working... What's Not

This worksheet helps you identify your strengths and weaknesses in your family's use of German. List the areas where you use German under the appropriate column. Then note any changes to make, materials needed, or things to research in the *Things to Do* section.

Example: if you're satisfied with the time you're spending reading to your children in German, put "Read aloud" under *What's working*. However if you think you're not spending enough time reading to them, put "Read aloud" under *What's Not* and put "Need more reading time" under *Things to Do*.

What's Working

What's Not

What's Working	What's Not

Things to Do

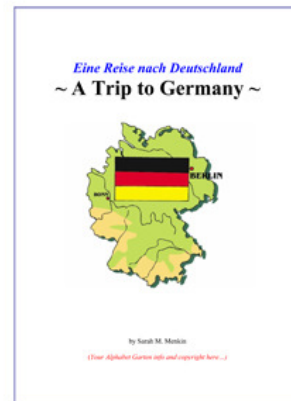
Date

Recommended Resources

A Trip to Germany Unit Studies

Has it been a while since you traveled to Germany? Would you like to introduce your child to many aspects of German culture but don't know where to start? Are you looking for a fun way to teach your child German without a lot of extra preparation on your part?

Our *Trip to Germany* series is designed to do all of this and more. Lesson plans skillfully combine authentic German children's books (no dull textbooks needed here) with projects, puzzles, and games to create a well-rounded German experience for you and your child. The instructor guides are written in English for ease of use for English-speaking parents.



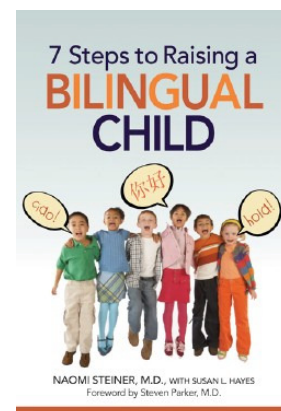
A series of four, three units are currently available with the remaining unit to be available in 2010. This series is an Alphabet Garten exclusive.

For more information on the *Trip to Germany* series, visit <http://tinyurl.com/agtrip>

7 Steps to Raising a Bilingual Child

The best time to learn a second language is as a child. This book helps parents in both monolingual and multilingual families determine and achieve bilingual goals for their children.

More information available at <http://tinyurl.com/7stepschild>





What bugs you?

If you find anything that bugs you,
please email me at smueller@alphabet-garten.com.
Nothing is too small or too big. And if I can, I'll be sure to fix it.
- Sarah Mueller

Alphabet Garten

Helping you *grow* German-speaking Kids

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