PARENTS' PEDAGOGICAL GUIDE

1) Introduction

From the first gurges of laughter to the first determined "I can do it myself," and from the first steps into a classroom to the emotional tides of adolescence, you are your child's first and most important guide. This journey is filled with wonder, but it can also feel overwhelming, like navigating without a compass.

This guide is here to offer direction, not directives. Think of it as a map drawn from child development research, seasoned with practical wisdom, and meant to be adapted to your family's unique path. It's designed to support you in raising a child who is not only capable and curious, but also compassionate and resilient.

About The Globetrotters Project

Imagine a creative afternoon with your child, where you explore new knowledge and skills together! Imagine having simple, fun, and age-appropriate materials at your fingertips that you can use immediately, without pressure or extensive preparation. Imagine these moments becoming a cherished part of your daily life and one day a wonderful memory for your child. In addition, research shows that the most effective forms of parental involvement during a child's schooling are those that involve parents working directly with their children in learning activities at home.

The Erasmus+ project **Globetrotters** was created to open the doors for children to a world they have yet to discover a world full of new experiences. At the same time, it provides teachers and parents with innovative and practical materials that make learning new languages and exploring different cultures a shared, creative and enjoyable activity.

Globetrotters bring together organizations and schools from Belgium, Greece, Serbia, and Romania. The project promotes multilingualism, intercultural understanding, and inclusivity values that are nurtured both at school and at home.

Within this project, there are **Language and Culture Discovery modules** that combine digital and printed materials for use both in the classroom and at home. Each module includes a variety of games, short stories, images, songs and gamified activities on a digital platform. Every module introduces a new language and culture through simple greetings, basic vocabulary for everyday situations, customs and cultural artifacts encountered in museums. All materials are designed to be accessible to children with learning difficulties or from diverse cultural backgrounds.

The modules are primarily designed for children aged 6 to 9, but they can be adapted for other age groups, and you will see that they can bring joy and learning satisfaction for you as well! You and your child can choose activities that will allow your child to make their first discoveries. Our approach places the child and their needs at the center. Respecting individual differences, learning takes place through clear, simple and engaging activities, connecting language and digital skills with elements of culture. This approach promotes tolerance, understanding, acceptance and empathy toward others.

This guide offers ideas for games, short activities, family routines and tips to support your child in learning with ease, without anxiety or pressure, in a holistic way. The activities in this project allow you to connect with your child in a truly authentic and fun way. Learning through discovery naturally sparks curiosity, joy, and a sense of pride - and you will feel it too, not just your child!

What will you find in this guide?

We designed the guide with simple sections:

- Basic information about the Globetrotters Project

- Purpose of the pedagogical guide for parents

- Supporting Learning through a Gamification Platform

- Ideas for Practical activities at home

- Resources and suggestions for further exploration

By using Globetrotters tools at home, you can create small but meaningful moments where your child grows into a curious, open-minded individual, ready to explore, understand, and appreciate their own and other cultures.

Dear parents, are you ready? Your children are! Let's explore together!

2) Purpose of the pedagogical guide for parents

Why a "Pedagogical" Approach to Parenting?

Pedagogy simply means the art and science of teaching. In parenting, it's about moving from reactive to responsive, from "What do I do now?" to "What does my child need to learn here?"

This guide is built on the idea that intentional, informed parenting doesn't mean doing more. It means seeing differently. You'll find principles to help you:

- Understand the "Why" Behind Behavior: See a meltdown not as defiance, but as communication. View a teen's eye-roll not as disrespect, but as a bid for autonomy. With insight into the developmental reasons behind behavior, you can respond with empathy rather than frustration.

- Create a Foundation of Safety and Growth: Children flourish in environments that are both predictable and nurturing. This guide offers ways to establish rhythms and boundaries that make home a secure base, a place where challenges are met with support, and mistakes are seen as steps toward growth.

- Navigate Today's Parenting Landscape with Clarity: From screen time and social media to fostering resilience in a fast-paced world, this guide provides actionable strategies rooted in developmental science. It helps you become a thoughtful architect of your child's daily life, even in a digitally saturated age.

How to Use This Guide

This is not a checklist or a rulebook. It's a toolbox, a source of reflection, and a starting point for deeper connection.

- Use It as a Reference, Not a Script: Jump to the sections that match your child's current phase. Revisit chapters when new questions arise. Your child's growth is not linear, your use of this guide doesn't have to be, either.

- Use It as a Mirror, Not a Measure: Let these ideas help you reflect on your own parenting values and rhythms. This is not about perfection or comparison. It's about finding what aligns with your family's story and your child's individuality.

- Use It to Strengthen Connection: Every strategy here ultimately serves one goal: deepening the relationship between you and your child. When things feel uncertain, let connection be your north star.

Our hope is that this guide empowers you with knowledge that turns into confidence. You already know your child in ways no one else does. This resource aims to blend that intuition with an understanding of how children grow, so you can parent with both heart and insight.

3) Supporting learning using a gamification platform

a) Learning through play and adventure

Children learn best when they are engaged, active, and having fun. Their natural curiosity and imagination make them eager to explore the world around them. Using gamified learning tools harnesses this type of energy by transforming traditional learning methods into playful adventures where learning happens through exploration, challenges and rewards.

A gamification platform uses elements from game design, such as points, badges, stories, and levels, to create a motivating learning experience. By doing so, it encourages children to see learning as a journey or an adventure rather than a chore. This approach of using gamified tools is particularly powerful for young students, making education feel like a game they *want* to play. Studies show that gamified activities enhance engagement, improve motivation, and increase memorisation compared to traditional methods (Ríos-Muñoz et al., 2024; Park University, 2024). By creating educational goals into fun tasks, children learn without even realising they are studying.

b) What is gamification and why does it work?

Gamification is not about turning every single lesson into a video game. The main goal of gamification is to bring the best parts of gameplay into learning. It taps into children's natural love for play, discovery and achievement. Gamification platforms increase learner engagement and motivation by making learning experiences more enjoyable and immersive.

Key principles of gamification

Before diving into the concept of gamification, it is important to keep in mind the key principles of gamification and what are their impacts on learning:

1. **Clear goals:** Children know exactly what they are working toward, such as completing a quest or earning a badge for mastering vocabulary.

2. **Instant feedback:** The platform reacts immediately when a task is completed, allowing children to see their progress and correct mistakes on the spot.

3. **Safe exploration:** Students can experiment, make mistakes, and try again without judgment, making mistakes part of the adventure.

4. **Rewards and progression:** Points, badges, "good job" messages, etc., help maintain motivation and a sense of accomplishment.

5. **Storytelling and adventure:** Lessons are embedded within stories and cultural contexts that make learning meaningful and memorable.

Why is gamification effective?

Gamified learning works because it speaks the language of play. According to the *Theory of Gamified Learning* (Fatah, 2025), combining instructional content with engaging challenges increases attention, perseverance, and enjoyment. Meta-analyses show that gamification significantly improves learning outcomes across all subjects, especially in languages and STEM (Zeng et al., 2024).

According to Zakrzewski and Lorenzo-Lledó, gamification supports children in:

- **Intrinsic motivation:** the drive to learn for the joy of discovery.

- **Confidence building**, as repeated practices feel rewarding instead of frustrating.

- **Emotional regulation**, since making mistakes is reframed as part of the game.

- **Cognitive development**, including memory, focus and problem-solving skills.

When well thought out and used well, gamification transforms a learning environment into an interactive playground that promotes lifelong curiosity.

c) How can gamification support children's development?

- **Language and literacy skills**

Gamified platforms, such as *Globetrotters,* guide children through levels that mimic real-life contexts (at the shop, in the park, or at the festival), where they practise speaking, reading, and writing in a new language. Through repetition and interactive feedback, children gradually build

vocabulary and comprehension.

Research shows that gamified learning environments improve vocabulary memorisation, pronunciation, and reading fluency (Fatah, 2025). For young children, pairing words with visual cues and stories enhances understanding and memory.

- **Cultural awareness and empathy**

Gamified journeys often take students across different countries and traditions. Children might explore how families in Spain celebrate festivals or how children in Greece greet one another. By experiencing these cultures firsthand, they learn to appreciate diversity and develop empathy, which are key components of emotional intelligence. As noted by Perniola (2025), these experiences nurture global citizenship and help children relate positively to others from different backgrounds.

- **Cognitive and emotional growth**

Games challenge children to think strategically, solve problems, and adapt to new situations. When faced with puzzles or logic challenges, they practise persistence and flexible thinking. Those skills are vital for academic success (Alotaibi, 2024). Gamification also boosts emotional resilience; making mistakes or losing a level becomes an opportunity to improve rather than a reason to give up.

In his study, Zakrzewski (2025) found that adding gamified elements, such as stories, points, and visual feedback, improved children's concentration and task performance during cognitive challenges. These benefits extend far beyond the screen, supporting learning and personal growth.

4) What are the benefits of gamification for children?

Various studies from Kurt (2023), Lorenzo-Lledó (2023), and North Point Schools (2025) support the effectiveness of gamification in primary education. Here are the main benefits observed for young children through those studies:

a) Increased engagement and motivation

Gamification makes learning exciting. Children feel a sense of progress as they complete quests, earn badges, or climb leaderboards. This structured motivation helps them stay focused longer and view the different challenges as enjoyable rather than stressful. Learning through games encourages healthy competition, which motivates children to push themselves while having fun and learning at their own pace (School Jotter, 2024).

b) Improved confidence and resilience

Games allow safe failure, and because of that, children learn that mistakes are opportunities to try again. This reduces anxiety and builds confidence, particularly for shy students who may hesitate to participate in traditional classrooms.

c) Enhanced memory and academic performance

Gamified learning improves knowledge retention by up to 40% compared to conventional methods (Park University, 2024). Frequent reinforcement through gameplay ensures that skills and facts move from short-term memory into long-term understanding. Gamified platforms can improve children's memory, attention, and thinking speed, which also gives them a strong foundation for academic performance and success (Alotaibi, 2024).

d) Stronger problem-solving and critical thinking

Gamified challenges encourage children to experiment and discover multiple solutions. These tasks develop logical reasoning and analytical thinking, both key foundations for later subjects like mathematics and science (Axon Park, 2023).

e) Emotional and social development

Working through shared challenges teaches cooperation and empathy. Children collaborate as a team and learn to help others, take turns, and feel proud of their team's success. Those skills benefit both school and personal relationships by supporting long-term engagement and active participation in classroom activities (Perniola, 2024; Alotaibi, 2024).

f) Personalised learning path

Modern gamified platforms adapt to each learner's pace and interests. This personalised approach meets the diverse needs of children with different learning styles or abilities, making learning inclusive and accessible.

5) What happens when parents become learning partners?

When parents actively participate in their child's gamified learning experiences, they do more than supervise screen time; they become partners in play, exploration and achievement. Playing together on an educational gamified platform allows parents to share in their children's learning, guide them through challenges, and make learning a fun and playful experience (The Think Academy, 2025).

Parents play a crucial role in helping children make the most of gamified learning. When parents join in, learning becomes more meaningful. Shared experiences strengthen emotional bonds and show children that learning is a family value. The key is to connect what happens on the screen with everyday life and make learning a shared adventure.

a) Creating routines

Successful gamified learning at home depends on supportive routines. Edmentum's guide for parents (2024) suggests tuning learning sessions to the child's needs, adapting difficulty, and giving meaningful feedback help the children grow with confidence. Calm and structured game time alongside family routines helps children focus and develop self-regulation, while visual progress charts and goal-setting keep motivation high.

b) Bringing learning into the real world

Selecting the right platform is essential, as well as reinforcing digital lessons through hands-on activities:

- Helping count all the ingredients from a recipe

- Labelling household objects in the target language.

- Using printable materials to connect digital learning with physical play.

These moments help children see that knowledge is everywhere and not just on a screen.

Taking an active, supportive role in gamified learning can help your child see learning as a joyful, rewarding adventure, reinforcing knowledge, confidence, and problem-solving skills for life.

c) Conclusion: Gamified platforms turn curiosity into lifelong learning

Gamification opens a new chapter in education. It values curiosity as much as content. By integrating stories, goals, and playful interaction using game mechanics, gamification platforms create a safe, rewarding environment for children to grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

For children, gamified platforms encourage exploration, resilience, and creativity. They teach that learning can be an adventure, not a task. As parents, you have a crucial role in nurturing that excitement by joining the journey, applauding their progress, and reminding your child that every challenge they conquer in the game represents a real-world skill they gain.

6) Practical activities at home: 30 Family Challenges

A fun and meaningful way to discover languages and cultures at home, together!

These activities can be done at home with the whole family. See them as fun little challenges and precious quality moments together. Who knows… maybe it will even become your weekly family ritual? You will find instructions, audio, visuals or printable material directly inside the modules.

Are you ready? 1, 2, 3… let's go!

0. Create your Language Corner - All modules

Choose a special place in your home where you will collect photos, crafts, words and souvenirs linked to your discoveries. Make a poster saying **"OUR LANGUAGE AND CULTURE CORNER"** and decorate it together. This will become your family's Globetrotters corner!

1. Romanian Christmas Cake - Module "Let's Discover Romanian - It's Christmas"

Cook the simple Romanian Christmas cake as shown in the module. Discover the ingredients, follow the recipe step by step, and enjoy a sweet cultural moment. Take a picture and add it to your Language Corner.

2. Yes/No in Another Language - All modules

Choose a language from any module and learn how to say **YES** and **NO**. Create a poster to remember them to use it and not answer yes or no in their own language, just for fun… and just for 1-2 hours (or more if they want!). Use a timer for more fun. Enjoy the challenge!

3. Greeting Challenge - Greetings - All modules

Learn one greeting from the module and write it on a colourful card. Use this greeting every time you meet a family member during the day. Help each other pronounce it like a native. Fun guaranteed!

4. Object Hunt - Cultural Items & Visuals - All modules

Find **3 objects in your home** that appeared in the module you watched. Explain why you think they match what you saw. Take a photo and add it to your Language Corner.

5. Sound Explorer - Sounds of the Language - All modules

Listen to a sound, a word or a short audio clip from the module. Guess the language and what the sound represents! Close your eyes to make it even more exciting.

6. Mini-Flag Creation - Flags & Symbols - All modules

Create the flag of the country using paper, crayons or recycled materials. Hang it proudly in your Language and Culture Corner.

7. Word of the Week - Basic Vocabulary - All modules

Choose one word from the module and try to use it at least five times during the day. Stick the word on the fridge—or even on someone's back so they must guess it! Then add the word to your Language Corner.

8. Gesture Game - Non-Verbal Communication - All modules

Learn a gesture from the country (for example, the Greek way of saying "no"). Use it during the evening and see who remembers it the best! Draw the gesture and add it to your Language Corner.

9. Family Map Moment - Geography - All modules

Find the country on a map, globe or online. Talk about how you would travel there from home. Add a small dot or sticker to your family map.

10. Quick Fruit Salad Challenge - "Discover French - At the Shop"

Prepare a simple fruit salad inspired by the module. Give it a fun name connected to French culture. Take a picture before eating... yummy!

11. Cultural Dice Guessing Game - Culture - "Discover Dutch in the Netherlands"- At the Museum

Build the special Cultural Dice from the module and roll it. Look carefully at the picture that appears: guess what it is, describe what you see, point to as many elements as possible (colours, objects, numbers...). Then choose one of the six faces and **mime it** for the others to guess! If you want, create an extra dice using cultural elements from other modules.

12. Family Passport - All modules

Create your own **Language Passport**. For every module explored, add one sticker, drawing, or new word. Watch your passport fill up with discoveries!

13. Compare Your Languages - Basic Vocabulary - All modules

Choose one word from the module and compare it with your home languages. Does it sound similar? Completely different? Be like a detective and find others. Maybe some family members can give you clues. Celebrate linguistic diversity together.

14. Tradition Swap - Traditions - All modules

Share one of your family traditions and compare it with a tradition from the explored country. What is similar? What is different? A beautiful way to connect cultures.

15. 5-Minute Story - Storytelling - All modules

Invent a short story using **three words** from the module. Make it simple, funny and creative. Record it if you want and add a QR code to your Language Corner!

16. Picture Talk - Visual Discovery - All modules

Choose an image from the module. Each family member says:

- one thing they **see**,

- one thing they **wonder**,

- one thing they **like**. A perfect activity to spark conversations.

17. Market Game - Food & Culture - All shop modules

Pretend you are at a market in the explored country. Use the target words as best as you can while "buying" and "selling"! Take turns being the seller and the customer.

18. Music & Movement - Music & Culture - Module "Discover Romanian - at the Festival"

Listen to a song from the module. Invent three simple movements inspired by the music. Dance together and enjoy the moment!

19. Language Echo - Sounds of the Language - All modules

Choose one word from the module. Repeat it in different funny voices: robot, giant, tiny mouse, sleepy, superhero... A great way to memorise sounds and have a good laugh!

20. Family Photo Challenge - All modules

Take a family photo while doing one of the activities. Say a word in the new language together… click! Print it for your Language Corner.

21. Puppet Show - Guides & Characters - All modules

Create paper puppets of the guides you met in the modules. Attach them to sticks and write on the back how to greet, say "thank you", or count "1, 2, 3" in their language. Put on a small puppet show as a family!

22. QR Code Challenge - All modules

Choose the words or expressions you want to remember. Create simple QR codes (with adult help) and glue them next to the words in your Language Corner. Scan them anytime to practice again!

23. Thank You Day - All modules

Learn how to say **thank you** in the target language. Use it all day long at home. A beautiful way to spread kindness in a new language.

24. Memory Game - Cards & Vocabulary - All modules

Create small cards with words, images or objects from the module. Play a memory game together! Every time someone finds a pair, they repeat the word aloud.

25. Create a Word Garland - All modules

Choose your favourite decorations, stickers, photos, drawings or words from the modules and put each one on a small colourful card. Decorate the cards, punch a small hole in each, and thread them onto a string. Hang your beautiful **Word Garland** in your Language Corner to celebrate all the new words your family is learning!

26. Roleplay Challenge - Modules with Roleplay Scenes

Use the roleplay scenes or comic strips from the modules. Act them out with voices, gestures, props… A great way to practise vocabulary and have fun!

27. Enter the Globetrotters Universe - All modules

Print and cut Globetrotters characters, icons or backgrounds (from the modules). Use them to decorate your Language Corner or create small posters. Welcome to your own Globetrotters world!

28. Fortune Teller Challenge - Craft - French/German/English Module At the shop

Use the paper **fortune teller** (cocotte) from the module (Discover French/German/English At the shop". Play together: open, close, choose a colour or number… and discover a surprise word or challenge!

29. Mistigri Card Game - Card Games - All modules

Create a simple card game using pictures, flags or words from the module. Hide one "odd" card (the Mistigri*!). Try not to end the game with it in your hand!

*Mistigri is a simple card game where players form and discard pairs while secretly trying to avoid being left with the single unpaired card called the Mistigri. The game ends when all pairs are gone, and the player holding the Mistigri loses.

30. Rainbow Challenge - Colours in Any Language

Cut strips of coloured paper. Write the colour name in different languages (from modules or home languages). Assemble all strips to create a beautiful **multilingual rainbow**!

7) Links to the platform

- Globetrotters. https://globetrottersproject.eu/

- Globetrotters. *Globetrotters project -Resources*.
  https://globetrottersproject.eu/resources/

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8) Further Reading

(The majority of the websites below are in various languages)

- *European Day of languages*. https://edl.ecml.at/en/

- *Europeana*. https://www.europeana.eu/en

- *Global Storybooks Portal*. https://globalstorybooks.net/

- *Eveil aux langues dans votre classe*. *YouTube channel*..
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GlobeTrotters

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APPRENTISSAGE LUDIQUE DES LANGUES

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