

Top 10 hacks to get more Chinese into your kid's life

This doc lives at tinyurl.com/y26j3z9c

1. **Have them watch all their television in Mandarin**
 - a. Almost every English-language cartoon you can think of has already been dubbed in Mandarin. Many of these shows are on YouTube or somewhere on the internet. If you can, find the name of the show in Chinese and copy and paste into a search function. If you don't know the name of the show in Chinese, type it in English in a search bar and add “中文版,” and the right links should pop up.
 - b. Find Netflix programs that can be played in Mandarin. On a desktop logged into a regular adult account, NOT a kids account, type in www.netflix.com/browse/audio/zh Choose Mandarin audio. All the results will have Mandarin as a language option. You can select subtitles or not, too. For older kids who can read, turn on Chinese subtitles for English-only shows (when available) to expose them to new vocabulary words.
 - c. For older kids, find reality pop culture shows like 中国好声音 on YouTube
 - d. Refer to the Chinese resources document for more show ideas
2. **Listen and sing to Mandarin music**
 - a. Listen to kid CDs when they are young
 - b. Listen to modern Chinese pop music (Spotify and YouTube have tons) when they pass first grade. Look up lyrics to songs that they like on the Internet. Just copy and paste the song title and add “歌词” (lyrics) in the search bar.
 - c. Encourage your kid to sing lots and lots of Mandarin karaoke.
3. **Listen to Mandarin audiobooks**
 - a. Ximalaya app is good and free, just get help from a Chinese literate person to search and save a few programs to your playlist.
4. **Check out Chinese kids' books** from the Oakland Public Library Asian branch, San Francisco Public Library, or Berkeley Public Library to supplement school books.
 - a. Ask the librarians for help. They will be more than happy to help you select.
 - b. During COVID, you can request books and do pickup at certain branches.
5. **Use technology smartly.** If you allow them to play video games or cellphone games, have it be a Chinese-based one. Let them use apps like Google Translate or Pleco to look up words they encounter (pairs well with #6 below).
6. **Spend regular time in a Chinese print-rich environment.** Ideas include long visits to 99 Ranch supermarket, Chinese bookstores, Oakland Chinatown, Milpitas shopping center businesses.
7. **If you have access to an adult who speaks Mandarin, arrange for them to spend alone time together where the adult only speaks Mandarin to your kid.** (Mixed-language level playdates with other kids are great just for bonding, but they won't speak Mandarin together unless all of their levels are equally strong and at the developmental level in which they wish to play.)
8. **If you sign them up for enrichment classes, music, sports, hobby clubs, summer camps, try to find ones taught in Mandarin.** Local ones are available through Hanwen School, Art in Mandarin, Early Start Music, etc. Ask around!
9. Set all devices in your house to **Chinese language setting** (this may be tough on you)
10. **Use Yu Ming's Homework Hotline** to help your kid get homework done quickly, on time, without tears. Don't rip your hair out trying to learn Chinese. Homework Hotline parents are happy to help. See the calendar of who's on call [HERE](#).

*****Bonus hacks*****

--Host a Yu Ming teaching intern for a semester or year.

--Plan any vacation around a Mandarin-speaking destination. (Some cities in Southern California, such as Monterey Park, Alhambra, San Gabriel, or Arcadia could be considered Mandarin-speaking destinations!)

--Find a student exchange or study abroad summer program in Mandarin-speaking country

List of tv programs (Copy and paste into browser, YouTube, or Netflix)

K-2

Paw Patrol 汪汪队立大功

Octonauts 海底小纵队

Tayo the Little Bus 小公车太友

Peppa Pig 粉红猪小妹

Beatbugs

Lalopsy

Puffin Rock

Llama Llama

Qiao Hu 巧虎

Pocoyo

Robocar Poli 安全小将

狗狗猩猩大冒险

小主播看天下

飞天妙妙屋

爸爸去哪儿

3-6 (Mixed because gets a little harder to determine levels/interest around these ages)

Lego (Friends, Elves, etc.)

Pokemon 神奇宝贝

Barbie

Magic Schoolbus 神奇校车

Charlie and Lola 查理和罗拉

Brainchild on Netflix (so good!)

樱桃小丸子

Doraemon 哆啦A梦

生活里的科学 (science)

可爱巧虎岛

快乐汉语

我们这一家

青春爱读书

甜心格格

Fuller House

7-8

Reality tv or competition shows, such as 中国好声音

YouTube cooking, DIY, makeup channels

There are tons of "soap opera" type shows on Netflix in Mandarin, such as Meteor Garden, Love Cuisine, etc.

A Love So Beautiful 到我们单纯的小美好

Love 020