



The Bilingual Advantage starts at home.

*The importance of speaking your
home language to your children*



DID YOU KNOW ?

One in five Americans speaks a
language other than English at home.

By speaking your home language to your children,
you're giving them a **powerful advantage** that will
last their whole lives.

BENEFITS OF BEING BILINGUAL



Cognitive

Some studies show that bilinguals have increased cognitive skills, including greater ability to pay attention to key information, stronger problem-solving skills, and the ability to more easily switch between different types of mental tasks.

Economic

Being bilingual opens opportunities for jobs—many employers will hire a bilingual candidate over one who only speaks English.

Social

Bilingual people have the chance to meet and connect with individuals they otherwise wouldn't if they only spoke one language.

Cultural

Speaking their home language allows kids to develop meaningful connections with their culture and with family members both in the US and abroad.

Academic

Many academic skills transfer from one language to another! If your child practices reading, writing, or math in your home language, it can help them when they do similar work in English.

DISPELLING COMMON MYTHS

Myth Speaking your home language makes it harder for kids to learn English—it confuses them.

Fact Speaking your home language doesn't negatively affect children's English or confuse them. Most of the world learns more than one language as children.

Myth Using only English in school and at home helps kids learn English better.

Fact Knowing more of their home language early on supports children's English learning once they start school. Additionally, dual language education programs are highly effective. On average, students in these programs—who have classes part of the day in their home language and part of the day in English—do better on English academic tests than students who are in English-only programs!

Myth Bilingual children are at greater risk of speech disorders.

Fact Speaking two languages does not cause speech/language disorders or increase the chance of having one.

Myth Children with autism or learning disabilities should only be exposed to English.

Fact ALL children, including those with autism, learning disabilities, and language impairments are capable of learning two languages and benefit from the ability to communicate in their home language with their family and community.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

You can find opportunities every day to increase your child's bilingual advantage!

- Speak to your children in your home language, even if they respond in English.
- Praise your kids when they speak your home language.
- Avoid criticizing when they make mistakes in your home language or mix the two languages together. This is a natural part of language learning and becoming bilingual.
- If possible, choose a dual language program for your children's education. *Visit our website below to learn more about dual language programs.*
- Try to find opportunities for your children to practice reading, writing, listening, and speaking in your home language.
- Expose your kids to others who speak your home language and chat with relatives via text and video calls. The more, the better!
- Read together, listen to music, sing, play, or spend some time watching TV in your home language. Make it fun!
- Keep speaking your home language as your child grows older. The positive effects of bilingualism last a lifetime, but you must keep it up to reap the benefits.



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