

Fun with Foreign Language...where learning a language is fun!

Why learn a foreign language as a child?

Why Learn as a Child?

Over the recent years, there has been an increase in the number of academic journals, newspaper and magazine articles, and television programs that have reported on the significant benefits of learning a foreign language at a young age. Media such as The Washington Post newspaper, Newsweek magazine, Time magazine, Dateline NBC have all reported on these benefits and encourage families to expose their children to a foreign language as early as possible. In fact, according to Parents magazine, “the perfect time to introduce your child to a foreign language is actually just when she’s learning her first one.” Nancy Rhodes, director of foreign language education at the Center for Applied Linguistics in Washington, D.C. states that: “A young child’s brain is wired to pick up language naturally. Between birth and puberty, children can learn multiple language and echo accents easily.”

Some may wonder whether exposure to two different languages causes confusion. According to research from CAL, “the ability to switch back and forth between languages, sometimes called code-switching is a sign of mastery of two linguistic systems, not a sign of language confusion, and that children as young as 2 are able to code switch in socially appropriate ways.”

Studies show that children that start learning a foreign language at a young age and continue to receive foreign language instruction through high school and college have a better chance of becoming proficient in the second language than someone that gets their first exposure to another language in middle and high school.