

## Raising Bilingual Children

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There are plenty of myths roaming around the idea of raising bilingual children. Many parents are concerned that teaching their child two languages will cause their child to be delayed in their language development.

Others worry about how exactly to teach their child two languages. Here are some FAQ's about raising bilingual children:

### Will teaching my child two languages cause problems?

No! Current research says that bilingual children acquire language skills just as well as other children. In fact, young children are at the ideal age to learn another language - the older they get, the harder it will be for them to learn a second language.



### What is the best way to teach my child two languages?

This depends on what you are comfortable with. Many parents

who are fluent in both languages choose to speak both languages in the home from birth. Children are capable of learning both languages at the same time.

Other parents are strong in one language but not the other. For example, a family who speaks Japanese might want their child to learn both Japanese and English. In this case, the parents should speak the language they are most comfortable with. This will help provide the child with a good language model

with strong use of proper grammar.

This child will hear English often outside of the home and will be able to learn English this way. The most important thing is that you speak the language you are most comfortable with.

### What if my child has a known language delay? Should I only speak English?

Again, there is no research showing that bilingualism causes language delays. Continue speaking to your child in the language you are most comfortable with.

There are many cases in both bilingual children and monolingual children where language delays are present, as well as many cases where they develop language skills typically.

Here are additional resources with information on raising bilingual children:

<http://www.asha.org/public/speech/development/BilingualChildren/>

<http://www.asha.org/public/speech/development/El-Nino-yel-Bilinguismo/> (Spanish)

<https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/303-dual-language-development-double-the-benefit>

