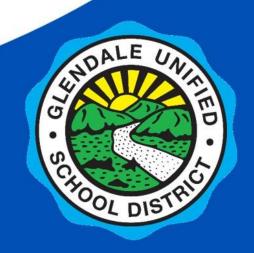
FLAG Parent Information Night: Language Acquisition in Dual Language Immersion Programs

Presented by Dr. Nancy Hong, Coordinator III Foreign Language Academies of Glendale

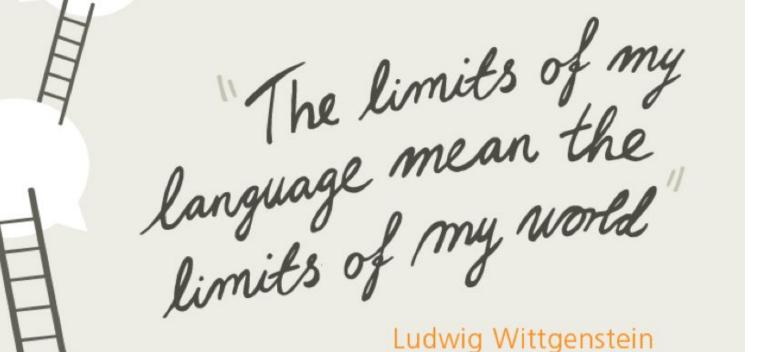




Agenda

- Language Acquisition
- Cognitive Advantages
- III. Social/Emotional Benefits
- V. Myths about Bilingualism
- V. Parents' Roles





Go beyond your language limit





Language Acquisition



First Language Acquisition

It is natural and easy, right?

- Complex and lifelong process
- Development of oral language is universal



First Language Acquisition

School Years (ages 6-12)

Natural first language acquisition continues



Second Language Acquisition

- We use the same innate processes that we used to acquire our first language when learning a second language
- It is a natural, gradual, and long term developmental process



Early Years of Language Acquisition

It is less important to...

- focus on error correction
- focus on acquisition of discrete points of language



Early Years of Language Acquisition

It is more important to...

- focus on communication and content
- encourage thinking in the language
- develop extensive vocabulary in context
- integrate listening, speaking, reading, and writing



Time It Takes to Develop Second Language Proficiency

- Social language: 2-5 years
- Academic language: 6-9 years



Cummins' Second Language Acquisition Theory

- BICS (Basic Interpersonal Communicative Skills)
- CALP (Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency)



BICS

- takes approximately 2 years
- social, conversational language
- embedded in context
- reliance on visuals, non-verbal cues



CALP

- takes 5-7 years
- non-verbal cues are absent or less used
- more interaction in academic language (usually abstract)
- literacy demands are high
- cultural awareness needed to fully comprehend



Cognitive Advantages



Cognitive Advantages

Overall, proficient bilinguals outperform monolinguals in:

- creativity
- problem solving
- divergent thinking
- mental flexibility
- multi-linguistic awareness
- executive function



Cognitive Advantages of Being Bilingual

Long term, proficient bilinguals are more resistant to the potential onset of dementia and Alzheimer's disease.



Key Findings

Continuing non-stop development of each student's first language is essential to cognitive development.



Key Findings

- Students who continue to develop in their first language until age 12, including learning how to read and write in their first language, will have big cognitive advantages over monolinguals
- Language and cognitive development occur simultaneously





- Dual language immersion programs level the playing field for all students
- Both sets of students (those with knowledge of English or the target language) are equally challenged



- Equal language status
- Teachers' diverse backgrounds shape meaningful lessons and activities that integrate multiculturalism within units of study
- Opportunities for cross-cultural curricular experiences for all students (not just those in DLI programs)



- Students come to support and value each other
- More cooperative learning and creative sharing of ideas
- Confidence in self-identity



Myths about Bilingualism



Myth #1

One's first language can interfere with the acquisition of the second language.



Fact

- The first language serves as an important knowledge base or reference point
- The first language is key to figuring out the second language



Transfer of Literacy

A positive transfer of literacy occurs with reading and writing across human languages.



Myth #2

Young children are the fastest at learning a second language.



Fact

- Young children are often willing, often eager and less inhibited learners than older students
- Adolescents and young adults who have attended school and are on grade level in their first language are more efficient language learners than young children



Myth #3

Children can learn a second language really quickly.



Fact

In school, it takes an average of 6-8 years to reach full, grade level proficiency in the second language as measured by assessments.



Myth #4

More time spent in English results in higher achievement in English.



Fact

- Children who develop high levels of bilingualism become the best readers in English
- DLI programs promote brain development, increasing cognitive capacity



CAASPP Results 2018

	Math California	Math LA County	Math GUSD	ELA California	ELA LA County	ELA GUSD
English Learners	12.57%	12.02%	20% FLAG 25%	12.62%	10.73%	18% FLAG 20%
FLAG Students			60%			67%
All Students	38.65%	37.46%	54%	49.88%	48.93%	63%



Parents' Roles



Parents' Roles

- Provide authentic experiences to use language
- Support literacy development
- Go to cultural events
- Playdates with native speakers
- Exposure to media



Parents' Roles in Cognitive Development

- Use the language you know best and in which you are cognitively mature
- Share household responsibilities
- Engage in family activities



Key Recommendation

Use your strongest language with your children, since you present yourself as a cognitively mature adult in this way.



Summary



Dual Language Immersion Students...

- need to continue developing in their first language
- gain a strong grasp of their first language to inform their acquisition of their second language
- build more cognitive capacity and mental agility
- demonstrate high academic proficiency
- are more motivated and engaged in school
- have higher self-esteem and confidence



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mothing of his own!

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe





Thank You