


RAISING CHILDREN BILINGUALLY

“Issues in Raising Children Bilingually”


Melbourne
August 31st, 2008



Issues in Raising Children Bilingually


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Outline of Talk


1. Is bilingualism possible?
2. How does bilingualism affect the child's development?
3. What does bilingualism *not do*.
4. When should we start speaking the community languages to a young child?
5. Typical set-ups for raising children bilingually
6. How frequently does the community language need to be spoken?
7. What is the role of the English speaking parent and other relatives?
8. How can we deal with criticisms
9. Resources
10. Audience questions and discussion



1. Is bilingualism possible?

Is it desirable?


- ☉ for parents: individual choice
- ☉ for the society and the economy: probably
- ☉ personally: feedback from young adults seems to indicate that it is desirable!



1. Is bilingualism possible?


It is feasible?

- ☉ prove comes from relevant families
- but:**
- ☉ *how* do these families achieve this?
- and**
- ☉ *how* do the children cope with becoming bilingual?
- ☉ This is what my first talk is about!




2. How does bilingualism affect the child's development?

- ☉ bilingualism is normal
- ☉☉ 2 languages = 2 registers
- ☉☉☉ possibly advantageous for cognitive development
- ☉☉☉☉ overt cognitive control over language
- ☉☉☉☉☉ enhanced metalinguistic awareness
- ☉☉☉☉☉☉ importance of overall language ability




3. What does bilingualism *not do*?

- ☉ not detrimental
- ☉☉ does not cause stuttering or language delay
- ☉☉☉ children are not confused by 2 languages
- ☉☉☉☉ children are *not* overburdened by more than one language
- ☉☉☉☉☉ transferences between languages are common but temporary
- ☉☉☉☉☉☉ language mixing is often the speaker's choice




4. When should we start speaking the community languages to a young child?

- ☉ from birth!
- ☉☉ language and relationships
- ☉☉☉ habit formation for parents!



5. Typical set-ups for raising children bilingually

☉	LOTE	☉	English
☉☉	in the home	☉☉	outside the home
☉☉☉	one parent	☉☉☉	other parent
☉☉☉☉	grandparents	☉☉☉☉	parents & everyone else
☉☉☉☉☉	babysitters, creche, etc.	☉☉☉☉☉	parents & everyone else
☉☉☉☉☉☉	selected situations	☉☉☉☉☉☉	all other times and places
☉☉☉☉☉☉☉	places		






6. How frequently does the community language need to be spoken?






- ☉ *frequently – consistently – persistently*
- ☉☉ How does family communication in the ‘one parent-one language’ family work?
- ☉☉☉ Speaking the community language **outside** the house?









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	7. What is the role of the English speaking parent and other relatives?
	Support
	
	10

	8. How can we deal deal with criticism?
	explain your reasons and strategies
	translate
	be informed
	
	11

	9. Resources
	books, tapes, videos
	Multicultural Resource Centre
	personal contacts in the community
	LOTE speaking home help/baby sitting
	overseas contacts
	Australian Newsletter for Bilingual Families
	
	12

	Please ask questions or make comments.
	
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