

*A collection of information and links to
websites concerning
Early Language Learning*

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The Benefits of Multilingualism**

“Multilingualism is the natural potential available to every normal human being rather than an unusual exception; it is only the environmental factors which may fail to provide the opportunity to learn another language that produce monolingual speakers: “Given the appropriate environment, two languages are as normal as two lungs” (Cook 2002b:23)...”

Click here to read more of [“The Benefits of Multilingualism”](#) by Michał B. Paradowski.

**Link provided by Marcela Summerville.

Animal Sounds in Multiple Languages

This website by Derek Abbott includes a list of animal sounds, animal commands, and pet names from children’s stories in a variety of languages. Languages included are Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, and Turkish.

Click here to learn more about [animal sounds](#).

American Sign Language Dictionary

Use this free online dictionary to learn over 7200 American Sign Language (ASL) signs. The website is divided into the main dictionary, religious signs, conventional phrases, and ASL for babies. Choose a word and watch the person in the video demonstrate the sign.

The next time you need an action to teach vocabulary consult this resource. Then you can teach your students ASL and the target language at the same time.

Click here to look at the [ASL Dictionary](#).

Teaching Spanish to Native Spanish Speakers

The Center for Applied Linguistics has developed a website to provide information about the Spanish-speaking population in the United States and to facilitate access to resources for working with Spanish speakers in Spanish language programs.

Within the website are resources which include articles, digests, briefs, bibliographies, and books. The resource currently spotlighted is a free online documentary titled “España y sus Accents”. In the resource corner is “Spanish for Spanish Speakers: Developing Dual Language Proficiency”.

Also available is a downloadable brochure titled “Why start and Maintain a SNS program?” This brochure was

developed to help teachers advocate for a Spanish for Native Speakers program in their school or district, start one, or improve one already in place. The brochure can be used with school board members, school and district administrators, Spanish teachers, and parents of Spanish-speaking students.

Click here to access the [Teaching Spanish to Native Spanish Speakers](#) website.

Cultural Food Pyramids

The Southeastern Michigan Dietetic Association gives examples of typical foods from different cultures. The foods are organized in an older version of the US food guide pyramid.

There are Arabic, Indian, Irish, Thai, Italian, Caribbean, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Yugoslavian, Cuban, Mexican, Chinese, and Russian food pyramids. Many of the pyramids also include recipes.

Click here to explore the [cultural food pyramids](#).

Heritage Languages in the United States

The Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) has created a website for the Alliance for the Advancement of Heritage Languages. The work of the Alliance is carried out through publications, the ongoing development of the website, a newsletter, and a listserv.

Visitors to these pages will find research and resources which includes books, reports, digests, videos, articles, journals, online news stories, languages spotlights and FAQ. Program profiles can be viewed or submitted. It is possible to sign up for their listserv and/or quarterly newsletter.

Click here to learn more about [Heritage Languages in the United States](#).

Why study Slavic and East European Languages?

The American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages answers the questions:

- Why study a less commonly taught language?
- Why study more than one Slavic or East European language?
- Why study a Central Asian language?

Visitors can find information on why to study individual languages: Albanian, Armenian, Belarusian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Estonian, Georgian, Hungarian, Kazakh, Latvian, Lithuanian, Macedonian, Slavonic, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Slovene, Tajik, Tatar, Ukrainian, Uzbek, and Yiddish. The site also lists universities where the languages are taught.

Click to learn more about the [importance of studying a Slavic or East European Language](#).

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