

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

*September 2009*

### **Languages in the News**

*Early English Helps Swiss Children  
Learn French\*\**

“German-speaking children who learn English first find it easier to learn French later, a study has found.”

“Reversing the learning order would probably have the same effect, the researchers say in their report, emphasizing the benefits of introducing new languages at a young age.”

“Critics of the introduction of two new languages in primary school argue that it overstretches the children. But the study “Early English – excessive demand or opportunity?” carried out for the Swiss National Science Foundation, indicates that pupils benefit from exposure to more than one language.”

Click here to read more of [“Early English Helps Swiss Children Learn French”](#).

*Making the Grade in a Global Economy*

“According to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, only about 44 percent of our secondary students study a foreign language. But rigorous opportunities in the arts, foreign languages and social studies are uniquely positioned to develop students’ 21st century skills and global awareness...”

Click here to read more of [“Making the Grade in a Global Economy”](#) by Gene R. Carter, Executive Director, ASCD.

### **10 Great reasons to study\*\***

The question “Why should I learn Spanish (or French, Chinese, Japanese, etc.)?” is answered on the Vistawide World Language and Culture site. It also gives several lists of statistics, tips for success in language learning, tips for finding ways to practice, plus explanations and resources for teachers, administrators and community members to use for a variety of public relations venues. These resources can help answer that question “Why should I learn \_\_\_?” with practical and applicable reasons. This website is constantly updating its resources and links to provide users with the latest information on new texts, materials, career opportunities, study abroad, and professional development.

Click here to access the [Vistawide World Language and Cultures website](#).

\*\*Link provided by Lynn Sessler,  
Central States East Regional Rep.

### **“Speaking in Tongues”**

“In a time when 31 states have passed English Only initiatives, one urban school district is exploring the provocative notion that speaking a foreign language can be a national asset. We follow four diverse students and their families as they encounter the challenges and delights of becoming fluent in two languages. As we witness their journey, we see how speaking more than one language changes them, their families, their communities, and maybe even the world.”

Included in the website are photos to download, the film trailer, excerpts from a panel discussion at the San Francisco International Film Festival, press articles about the film, and links to news articles about language learning.

Click here to watch the trailer or order the DVD [“Speaking in Tongues”](#).

### **Ancestors in the Americas**

The Ancestors in the Americas website is the companion Web site to the PBS series. Use the Asian American Timeline to learn about specific moments and events in Asian American history. Access the Resource section to find websites on Asian American history. Search the Program Information to learn more about the television series or read the Individual Stories to learn more about the experiences of Asian Americans.

Click here to access the [Ancestors in the Americas](#) companion website.

### **Learning Languages website**

Within the Learning Languages website are links to activities and games in French, Spanish, and Japanese. Links included are for culture, educational resources, French language, Spanish language, Japanese language, media, and technology.

Click here to access the [Learning Languages website](#).

### **1st International Collection of Tongue Twisters**

Within this website are 2790 tongue twisters in 109 languages from Acholi to Zulu. Included are more commonly taught languages such as French, German, and Spanish and less commonly taught languages such as Japanese, Portuguese, Arabic, Italian, Mandarin, Cantonese, Greek, Hebrew, Latin, Russian and many more.

Click here to access the [tongue twisters](#).

Send any information, comments, or questions for *Newsworthy* to Tammy Dann at [trdann@q.com](mailto:trdann@q.com)