

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

April 2010

Languages in the News

*Foreign Language Learning: An Early Start*¹

In this article Helena Curtain provides a basic argument for beginning foreign language teaching and learning in elementary school. Curtain's audience is proponents of Foreign Language in Elementary School (FLES) programs who may require a framework for advocating for FLES in their local schools. In addition, she provides a number of references which can help form a more comprehensive rationale when advocating for FLES.

Click here to read [Foreign Language Learning: An Early Start](#) by Helena Curtain.

*Raising Children Bilingual*²

This article looks to define bilingualism and give tips on how to facilitate language acquisition, how to improve the quality of teaching and learning, and how to be consistent through the process.

The author, Marsha Rosenberg, focuses on an important aspect often neglected by parents raising multilingual children; that of establishing a language plan. While for many families such formality seems absurd, Rosenberg notes the key ingredient in raising multilingual children is consistency. Choosing to give the gift of multilingualism requires careful planning. Parents with a well thought out plan will experience more success. The article provides a meaningful

¹ Link submitted by Heather Hendry.

² Link submitted by Concha Marin.

approach and information on the various ways of raising children bilingually.

Click here to read [Raising Children Bilingual](#) by Marsha Rosenberg.

*The Neural Advantage of Speaking Two Languages*³

In this very brief report, the author Melinda Wenner gives a summary of the results of a study which appeared in the journal *Psychological Science*. The study she discusses found that research participants, all of whom were Dutch-speaking university students who started learning English at 14 and 15, process dual-language words in print faster than words in their native language. The most important implication of the study is an influence exerted by "the nondominant second language" which changes (in positive ways) how the person reads text.

Click here to read [The Neural Advantage of Speaking Two Languages](#) by Melinda Wenner.

The Merlot⁴

This site is teeming with authentic material in different languages. Many video clips give visitors to the site a glimpse of how the language is spoken and how certain cultural aspects are practiced. The Merlot is an amalgam of fee-based and free resources. One of the useful resources for French language was short videos of children's songs that had animated visuals to accompany the song with the lyrics as subtext.

Click here to access [The Merlot](#).

³ Link submitted by Heather Hendry.

⁴ Link submitted by Meriem Bousaidi.

Rhyming Dictionary⁵

The online version of the rhyming dictionary is free and includes versions in French, Spanish, Italian, German, Portuguese, Romanian, Latin, English, Croatian, Afrikaans, Esperanto, Turkish, Dutch, Yiddish, Czech, Polish, Hungarian, Swahili, Norwegian, Japanese and Finnish (soon).

Click here to access the [Rhyming Dictionary](#).

Teaching ESL to Children⁶

The author gives ideas for how to teach ESL to children. These ideas can also be applied to teaching other languages:

- Kinesthetic - up and moving, singing, and playing
- Quick, short, and clear explanations of tasks w/ visual reinforcement
- Interaction is key: Child to child (more) and student to teacher (less)
- Review new concepts at beginning of class to scaffold new material
- Encourage self correction
- Use what is being learned in other contexts to link learning
- Praise and encourage

Click here to read [Teaching ESL to Children](#) by George Stocker.

Cool Tools for Schools⁷

This site provides the visitor with different materials for learning and testing. Scroll to the "Foreign Language Resources" link to access a variety of games and materials for teaching a foreign language. Once there you will find:

- Digital Dialects: interactive games for learning languages and links to study resources
- Busuu: Connects you with native speakers.
- Celebrate Languages
- Walk, Talk and Learn French
- Teaching Ideas
- Language Online
- iLoveLanguages
- Csun: lesson plans and resources
- Super Language: Compare and learn the six most popular languages
- Internet4Classrooms: Connects you with native speakers.
- BBC Languages

Click here to access the [Cool Tools for Schools](#).

Jim Cummin's Second Language Learning and Literacy Development Website

Jim Cummins is an author, presenter, and scholar in the area of ESL and Bilingual Education. This site includes many of his articles on topics such as: Elements of English Language Proficiency, Bilingualism, Basic Interpersonal Communicative Skills and Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency

Click here to access [Jim Cummin's Second Language Learning and Literacy Development Website](#).

This issue of *Newsworthy* was compiled by Tammy Dann. Send any comments, questions, or information for future issues of *Newsworthy* to Tammy Dann at trdann@q.com.

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⁵ Link submitted by Bonnie Corretjer.

⁶ Link submitted by Meriem Bousaidi.

⁷ Link submitted by Meriem Bousaidi.