

Languages in the News

Learning Languages When Young Increases Fluency

The Jerusalem Post reports that researchers from Haifa University found that those who speak two languages learn a third language more easily, and also increase their IQs while doing so. The study included two groups of sixth grade students who were all learning English. One group consisted of native Russian speakers, immigrants who had previously learned Hebrew. The second group consisted of native Hebrew speakers. Both groups were given tests to measure their mastery of reading strategies and knowledge of the rules of writing systems in both Hebrew and English. The native Russian group was also given identical tests in Russian.

Results indicated that the native Russian group scored better than the native Hebrew group. The native Russian group scored higher on writing exercises and on exercises involving knowledge of word formation.

Researchers tested the students' IQs before and after their English language training. They discovered that among students from both groups with the same average starting IQ, the native Russian students increased their IQ by about 7% following their English language learning experience.

Click here to read [Learning Languages When Young Increases Fluency](#).

Fayette Schools Ramp Up Foreign Language Studies in the Earliest Grades

This article describes a successful elementary program in Kentucky. It mentions that administrative support is a crucial component in sustaining early elementary programs.

The article includes a video of elementary students participating in a Japanese class. This video can be used as an example for administrators and parents of what young students in an early language program can accomplish. It also includes a teacher discussing the benefits of learning a second language at an early age.

Click here to read [Fayette Schools Ramp Up Foreign Language Studies in the Earliest Grades](#).

Bilingual Babies Cue into Language

Researchers have discovered that babies from bilingual homes develop the ability to distinguish between multiple languages based on visual clues such as lip movement and facial cues. This increased visual perception may indicate a developing ability to focus attention and engage in complex thinking later in life.

Click here to read [Bilingual Babies Cue into Language](#).

Tips and Tools for Early Language Learning

Elementary School Foreign Language Programs: Keys to Success

This Prezi presentation, created by Jessica Haxhi for the 2010 Magnet Schools of America Conference, brings together a variety of resources and links to describe successful elementary school language programs. It provides a comprehensive look at the benefits of language-learning, strategies for establishing successful programs, and tips for advocacy to maintain programs. Links and examples are given throughout to provide substance to the primary points, such as finding qualified teachers, developing assessments, maintaining parent/student communication, and creating 'backwards design' programming.

Click here to access [Elementary School Foreign Language Programs: Keys to Success](#).

La Ciencia del Agua para Escuelas

This website about water from the U.S. Geological survey includes bright, colorful graphics and diagrams with detailed script in Spanish (some pages available in 60 other languages). Concepts are accompanied by graphics and each page is reader friendly. This site is great for instruction or for use in self-directed research by students. It includes fun quizzes to help visitors better understand water and where it comes from. It also links to other U.S. Geological sites in English.

Click here to access [La Ciencia del Agua para Escuelas](#)

FLENJ's Thematically Organized Units

The Foreign Language Educators of New Jersey (FLENJ) has developed a series of performance-based assessments for K-12. The assessments are built around thematic

topics such as Art Appreciation, Celebrations and Traditions, the Environment, Relationships, and Work and Career and include tasks to measure each communicative skill (listening, reading, writing, and speaking). The website offers 70 assessment tasks and grading rubrics, as well as samples of student work that illustrate different levels of proficiency. Suggestions on how to adapt the tasks for different languages and grade levels are available as well as a history of the project's development.

Click here to access [FLENJ's Thematically Organized Units](#).

Global IQ Quiz

This website has links to three digital quizzes that give you immediate feedback: continents, cultural geography, and physical geography. These quizzes are the result of a partnership among the Department of State, Department of Education, and the National Geographic Society.

Click here to access the [Global IQ Quiz](#).

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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