



Children Show Off Bilingual Advantage

Benefits found in problem solving

BY ERIC TEGETHOFF

children learning two languages

A new study of bilingual and monolingual toddlers shows

perform better at certain problem-solving tasks than their

monolingual peers.

Cristina Crivello, Ph.D. student, University of Concordia in Montreal who led the study in the *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, says bilingual learning gives children abilities that are beneficial for people at any age.

“It’s these specific cognitive abilities, like selective attention and cognitive flexibility, where they have to focus on relevant information and ignore distracting information,” says Crivello.

Though there is no consensus yet on exactly how learning other languages improves the brain, Crivello suggests that switching between languages mirrors the process of switching between tasks.

Speaking another language can also improve children’s chances of getting a job later in life, both at home and abroad.

Bridget Yaden, professor of Hispanic studies, Pacific Lutheran University whose third-grader is enrolled in a dual-immersion language program, says her son will be able to bring another set of skills to potential employers. Those employers could be in any number of countries around the world.

“Just the general ability to learn a second language or a third language, he could really go anywhere and be much more open to the cultural practices and really kind of make his way,” says Yaden.

Children immersed in other languages can more easily pick them up because their brains are more receptive to acquiring language. Yaden, who also teaches foreign languages, says she can see how fast her son is progressing compared to her college students.

“He’s definitely leaps and bounds beyond where my college students, who may have had the same amount of time with the language, are,” says Yaden. “He’s definitely progressed much more quickly.”

Yaden, who is fluent in Spanish, adds she didn’t study a foreign language until high school.

Eric Tegethoff is a reporter for the Oregon News Network.

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Few Options after Racist Post

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areas of interest, such as Donald Trump and illegal immigration.

The full college board voted to censure him and he’s earned him a rebuke from the head of Oregon’s Republican Party, but these officials don’t have the power to discharge him under Oregon law.

A recall election from office would be possible if 2,300 valid voter signatures in the college district were collected to bring the issue to a vote, according to Multnomah County Elections officials.