Infographic

The Bilingual Brain:
How Language Learning Shapes Our Minds

This infographic summarizes key insights from **recent research** about multilingualism and language learning. Understanding these concepts can help you better support your bilingual and multilingual students, fostering a more inclusive and effective learning environment.

Read on to explore how language acquisition impacts the brain and academic success.

Brain adaptability

The brain shows remarkable plasticity when learning languages. It adapts both functionally and structurally to accommodate new linguistic knowledge.

- Functional changes are seen within **two weeks**
- Structural changes are seen with intensive learning
- The brain has different areas for speech and reading

Importance of language exposure

The environment plays a crucial role in language acquisition. Both the quantity and quality of language input significantly impact learning outcomes.

- **Quality and quantity** of exposure are crucial
- Consistent practice is essential to accurate language acquisition

> Studies have consistently shown that the amount of linguistic input and exposure matters greatly for language learning."
>
> – Dr. Gigi Luk, Professor, Educational and Counseling Psychology, McGill University

Oral language development in the classroom

Developing strong oral language skills is fundamental to overall language proficiency and is a foundation for literacy development.

- Model complete sentences rather than fragments
- Structured practice opportunities for speaking
- Use visual supports to connect language to tangible and objective objects

> Conversations, dialogs, social exchanges, provide learners with opportunities to practice and refine their language skills."
>
> – Dr. Gigi Luk, Professor, Educational and Counseling Psychology, McGill University

Bilingualism myths debunked

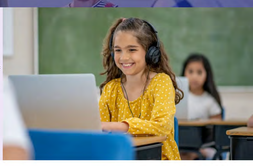
Many misconceptions about bilingualism persist. Understanding the truth helps create more supportive learning environments for multilingual students.

- Doesn't delay development
- Doesn't reduce proficiency
- Doesn't hinder academics

Academic English

Proficiency in academic language is crucial for success in educational settings. It requires specific attention and strategies to develop effectively.

- Crucial for school success
- Focus on relevant vocabulary
- Multiple practice opportunities



How schools can support bilingualism

Educational institutions play a vital role in fostering bilingualism. Proper support and resources can significantly enhance language learning outcomes.

- High-quality exposure to multiple languages
- Specialized teachers who've trained in and understand language acquisition
- Support student language acquisition across subject areas

Science of reading

- Helps ***all children succeed***, regardless of language background
- Emphasizes systematic instruction and support for oral language development

SCIENCE OF READING

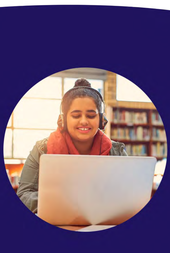
Lexia ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Lexia English impact

Lexia English Language Development™ has significantly impacted Emergent Bilinguals' language proficiency. During the 2023-2024 academic year:

- Emergent Bilinguals who used Lexia English out-performed non-users on language proficiency assessments (effect sizes for Lexia English ranged from 0.18 to 0.40)
- Students who used it as recommended made progress such that one in three students moved up a proficiency band
- 60% of time using Lexia English was spent in conversations

> Students have many opportunities to practice their speaking and listening skills in English as well as use real-life situations to apply the grammar skills that they are learning. Students receive scaffolded support when needed. The visuals and stories/information are culturally relevant."
>
> – Lexia® Educator



Ready to Dive Deeper?

This infographic just scratches the surface! Unlock the full potential of bilingual education by watching our comprehensive webinar.

Watch the Full Webinar

Contact Sales

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