# Supporting Dual Language Learning

Supporting children who are dual language learners in the U.S. is a critical component of building equitable educational systems. Speaking two languages is associated with social, cultural, health, cognitive, and economic benefits. Yet, U.S. educational classrooms lack adequate resources to support dual language learning. I-LABS is developing and testing new educational programs that support dual language learners so children can learn more than one language and experience the benefits of bilingualism. We are providing better support for children who are dual language learners and their families.

## At a Glance

**Handout:** Bilingual Language Development
https://bit.ly/3aN8qFb

**Clip:** The Bilingual Brain
https://bit.ly/2ZmzCGh

## Dig Deeper

**Featured Resource:** Bilingual Language Development
https://bit.ly/3h7u2OQ

**Article:** Why the Baby Brain Can Learn Two Languages at the Same Time
https://bit.ly/3hg0ayK

**Video:** The Linguistic Genius of Babies
https://bit.ly/2Zq0vc8

**Video:** Igniting Bilingual Learning
https://bit.ly/2FBWn1O

## Want to Learn More?

https://modules.ilabs.uw.edu/outreach

## Read Our Research

Scientists designed a new program to help infants learn a 2nd language, using a play-based, social curriculum. This program showed success with young children in Madrid, who readily learned English. It was especially effective with children living in poverty homes. Scientists at I-LABS now hope to make this program available to young children in the U.S. to help boost their English-speaking skills before entering schools.

*Ferjan Ramírez, Sheth, & Kuhl, 2021, Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health*
*https://bit.ly/3NlI00i*

Early childhood is a critical period for learning a 2nd language. This paper describes studies showing that young infants are "linguistic geniuses" and can learn a 2nd language with ease when learning occurs from a human tutor interacting socially with them. Children do not learn when the identical information is presented via video.

*Kuhl, Tsao, & Liu, 2003, Proc. National Acad. of Sci.*
*https://bit.ly/3k61KoY*

Before their first birthday, infant brains already show a strong specialization response to the language or languages they are learning. Infants learning two languages show increased activity in brain regions linked to executive function skills.

*Ferjan Ramírez, Ramírez, Clarke, Taulu & Kuhl, 2017, Dev. Sci.*
*https://bit.ly/2ZHtbhd*

Children show significant gains in a 2nd language when they participate in a play-based language curriculum for 45 minutes a day for 18 or 36 weeks. Children across all socio-economic groups showed these gains.

*Ferjan Ramírez & Kuhl, 2020, Mind Brain Educ.*
*https://bit.ly/3iUU4VK*

Early, social language experiences have a strong effect on infants' language learning. In this study, 12-month-old infants with a brief social experience to Spanish were able to babble in Spanish and English depending on the language spoken by the person playing with them.

*Sundara, Ward, Conboy & Kuhl, 2020, Biling.: Lang. Cogn.*
*https://bit.ly/3hhZ46q*

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