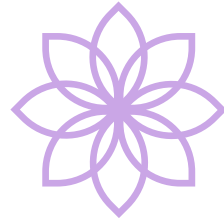


# The Bilingual Brain

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, Associate Professor, Department of Educational and Counseling

## 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, Associate Professor, Department of Educational and Counseling



## 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



## 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](#)