
W. Richmond

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## Bilingual Education A survey on the bilingualism in Spain.

The dual language programme is in full swing in Spain. But what do people think of it? Here are a few opinions on the topic.

## Opinions of bilingualism

"Having a bilingual programme in schools is a great way for students to get more exposure to the language, which will really help them acquire it."
"Learning English through Science and other subjects is the best way for language assimilation. Students are learning English without even realising it."


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"Students will graduate with knowledge of two languages. This is fantastic."
"Students will be able to communicate with more people from around the world. This is a skill that they'll have for the rest of their lives."
"Children in the bilingual project are getting plenty of exposure to English, which is a fundamental step in mastering a language."

The benefits of bilingualism. Here are a few results from recent studies on bilingualism:

1. Students are capable of achieving high levels of proficiency in a second language without detrimental effects to their primary language development.
2. Bilingual students perform better on tasks that call for divergent thinking, pattern recognition and problem solving.
3. Bilingual students have advanced levels of linguistic awareness.

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4. Proficiency in two languages permits individuals to expand their knowledge of the world.
5. Bilingual students have greater employment opportunities.
6. Bilingualism helps create a wider cultural awareness.
7. Experiments show that bilingual children are better at putting themselves in other people's shoes and showing empathy. It also helps them understand how others think.
8. Bilingual children learn about the complexities of language and how certain things can only be expressed in specific languages.
9. The acquisition of a second language in early childhood positively influences the development of neuronal circuits. Research has also shown that those fluent in more than one language are often mentally sharper than others.

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