Raising Children in more than one Language

Books


From the publisher's website: “In this accessible guide to bilingualism in the family and the classroom, Colin Baker delivers a realistic picture of the joys and difficulties of raising bilingual children. The Q&A format of this book makes it the natural choice for the busy parent or teacher who needs an easy reference guide to the most frequently asked questions. This revised edition includes more information on bilingualism in the digital age, and incorporates the latest research in areas such as neonatal language experience, multilingualism, language mixing and the effect that siblings have on family language choice.”


From the publisher's website: “How do bilingual brothers and sisters talk to each other? Sibling language use is an uncharted area in studies of bilingualism. From a perspective of independent researcher and parent of three bilingual children Suzanne Barron-Hauwaert discusses the issues of a growing bilingual or multilingual family. What happens when there are two or more children at different stages of language development? Do all the siblings speak the same languages? Which language(s) do the siblings prefer to speak together? Could one child refuse to speak one language while another child is fluently bilingual? How do the factors of birth order, personality or family size interact in language production? With data from over 100 international families this book investigates the reality of family life with two or more children and languages.”


From the publisher’s website: “Lots of new parents these days have the opportunity to bring up their child with two or more languages because of increasing job mobility and the global community. The benefits of bilingualism and biculturalism such as higher cognitive skills, an awareness of language and sensitivity to other cultures, are being increasingly recognised. However many parents don’t know how to start, what methods to use or where to seek help when facing problems. Now Suzanne Barron-Hauwaert, a mother of three trilingual children, teacher and linguist who has lived and worked all over the world, has written a book which provides an inspiring approach to passing on two or more languages to your children. In Language Strategies for Bilingual Families she considers several methods of bilingualism and focuses on the one-person one-language approach, in which each parent speaks his or her native language and is responsible for passing on his or her culture.”

From the publisher’s blurb: “This book aims to enable parents in trilingual families to consider possible language strategies suited to their individual circumstances. It includes a tool for diagnostic self-analysis that will help each reader to identify their situation and learn how parents in similar situations have approached the task of supporting their children’s use of languages.”


A case study of six 5- to 6-year olds in London learning to write in English plus Chinese, Arabic or Spanish. Considers the interaction of school (including Saturday schools) and family, looking at each family as a ‘literacy eco-system’. Target audience: teachers.


From the publisher’s website: “This book helps parents in both monolingual and multilingual families determine and achieve their bilingual goals for their child, whether those goals are understanding others, the ability to speak a second language, reading and/or writing in two languages, or some combination of all of these. The authors explain how the brain learns more than one language, explode common myths, address frequently asked questions, and reveal an array of resources available to families.”

Written by a pediatrician who brought up her children in the US in English and Italian.


From the publisher’s website: “A unique new insight into multilingual families, this book views multilingual childhoods from the point of the child and is based on over 50 interviews with adults who grew up in multilingual settings. The book charts their recollections of their childhoods and includes many different types of families, discusses many of the common issues that arise in multilingual families, and draws examples from all over the world. The book fills a significant gap in the literature and resources available to multilingual parents. It was researched and written by a self-help group of multilingual parents and thus the book remains very practical and gives clear and realistic advice to multilingual parents facing choices or dilemmas.”


From the publisher’s website: “…This book is an aid to parents, educators, researchers, and individuals who want facts about foreign language learning in order to apply concrete tools to maximize their potential in this area, independent of their age. This book examines the various factors in successful multilingualism across the lifespan, discussing groups such as those lucky enough to enjoy bilingualism from birth [Chapter 1 Raising Multilingual Children] to those who become foreign language learners in adulthood. […] the book establishes methods for teaching foreign languages and hints for home support that maximize each person’s potential for languages.”


The book provides sound background information and systematic consideration of contexts and materials, opportunities and obstacles of biliteracy development of school age children.

From the publisher’s website: “This book is a guide for parents who wish to raise children with more than one language and literacy. Drawing on interdisciplinary research, as well as the experiences of parents of multilingual children, this book walks parents through the multilingual reading and writing process from infancy to adolescence. It identifies essential literacy skills at each developmental stage and proposes effective strategies that facilitate multiliteracy, in particular, heritage-language literacy development in the home environment. This book can also be used as a reference for teachers who teach in community heritage language schools and in school heritage (or foreign) language programmes.”


From the publisher: “Raising a Bilingual Child provides parents with information, encouragement, and practical advice for creating a positive bilingual environment. It offers both an overview of why parents should raise their children to speak more than one language and detailed steps parents can take to integrate two languages into their child’s daily routine. Raising a Bilingual Child also includes inspirational first-hand accounts from parents. It dispels the myth that bilingualism may hinder a child’s academic performance and explains that learning languages at a young age can actually enhance a child’s overall intellectual development.”

**Newsletters**


*Snippets for Bilingual Families* is the current, electronic newsletter published by Susanne, which “disseminates information about issues of interest and importance to bilingual families and professionals working with such families. This includes information about upcoming talks on raising children bilingually, new publications, … and community information which happens to come my way.” To contribute or subscribe to this free newsletter send an email to info @ bilingualoptions.com.au.

*The Bilingual Family Newsletter*: no longer published, back issues available at [http://www.bilingualfamilynewsletter.com](http://www.bilingualfamilynewsletter.com)

The publication “was designed to help all those families who, for various reasons, are in a situation where they can give their children (and themselves) the advantages of being bi- or multilingual. [It] published short informative articles on current thoughts on language learning, bilingualism, biculturalism, mother tongue, schools, etc. It also published descriptions of how particular families have managed in their particular situations, problems encountered and how these were overcome.”
Internet resources

Bilingual Avenue www.bilingualavenue.com, also on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/bilingualavenue

A new website run by Marianna Du Bosq, “a bilingual mama, former bilingual educator, lifetime language learner”. It is devoted to bilingual parenting and bilingual education. Its main feature is a weekly podcast (also available on iTunes), an interview with parents, teachers and experts or Marianna answering readers’ questions; the transcripts of the podcasts are also available on the website. A monthly newsletter alerts readers to news and offers additional tips and strategies and a list of useful resources is in preparation.

Bilingual Families Perth www.bilingualfamilies.net, also on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/#!/
BilingualFamiliesPerth

The Perth-based not for profit network connects over 500 families and individuals from more than 40 language backgrounds. “Most families have school aged children and we are experiencing similar issues while raising our children. We also work together with professionals who share information on bilingualism. The Links & Resources page www.bilingualfamilies.net/pages/en/links-resources.php is particularly helpful.

Bilingualism Matters http://www.bilingualism-matters.org.uk/

Orginally a public information service, now a Centre of Excellence at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, set up to bridge “the gap between researchers and our community to help more children benefit from bilingualism”. Contains a blog, resources and links, and questions (and answers) frequently asked by parents (see: http://www.bilingualism-matters.ppls.ed.ac.uk/parents-questions/frequently-asked-questions/)

Multilingual Families http://www.multilingual-families.eu/

An international, (European) project developing resources and information for families raising their children multilingually. Among the resources currently available are:
30 activities to support multilingualism at home (http://www.multilingual-families.eu/repository/for-parents/29activities);
a self-access guide for parents https://sites.google.com/site/mfselfacessguide/;
an introductory brochure and case studies http://www.multilingual-families.eu/repository/for-parents;
They all come in various languages.

Multilingual living, http://www.multilingualliving.com/, also on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/multilingualliving and Twitter: @MultiLingLiving.

From the website: “Multilingual Living was founded by Corey Heller in early 2003. It was originally named the Bilingual/Bicultural Family Network and is the home of Multilingual Living Magazine, a popular digital publication dedicated to families raising bilingual and multilingual children.
Multilingual Living is a place where parents raising children in more than one language and culture can find inspiration, tools, advice, wisdom and support! It is about living multilingually, in each and every way possible.”

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