



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

# Research Unit for Multilingualism & Cross-Cultural Communication

## Raising Children in more than one Language: Useful resources

### Books

Baker, Colin (2014), *A parents' and teachers' guide to bilingualism*. 4th ed. Bristol: Multilingual Matters.  
ISBN: 9781783091607 (hardback ); 9781783091591 (paperback); 9781783091621 (ebook).

“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)

Barron-Hauwaert, Suzanne (2010), *Bilingual siblings: language use in families*. Bristol: Multilingual Matters.  
ISBN 1847693261 (paperback), 9781847693280 (ebook) 1847693288 (ebook)

“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)

Barron-Hauwaert, Suzanne (2004), *Language strategies for bilingual families: the one-parent-one-language approach*. Clevedon; Buffalo: Multilingual Matters. ISBN 1853597155 (hardback); 1853597147 (paperback); 1853597163 (e-book)

From the publisher’s website: “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. [...] 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 website)

Braun, Andreas and Tony Cline (2014), *Language strategies for trilingual families: parents’ perspectives*. Bristol: Multilingual Matters. ISBN 9781783091140 (paperback); 9781783091171 (ebook).

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.”

Cunningham-Andersson, Una (2011), *Growing up with two languages: a practical guide for the bilingual family*. 3rd ed. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge. ISBN 9780415598521 (paperback); 9780203814673 (ebook).

Companion website: [www.routledge.com/textbooks/9780415598521](http://www.routledge.com/textbooks/9780415598521), also on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Growing-up-with-Two-Languages/178389788862764>

De Houwer, Annick (2009), *An introduction to bilingual development*. Bristol: Multilingual Matters. ISBN: 9781847691682 (paperback), 9781847696304 (ebook).

An introductory textbook showing how children learn to understand and speak multiple languages. It “describes how bilingually raised children learn to understand and use sounds, words and sentences in two languages, and how they are able to use each of their languages in socially appropriate ways. Positive attitudes towards bilingual development from the people in bilingual children's environments and their recognition that child bilingualism is not monolingualism-times-two are the main ingredients ensuring that children grow up to be happy and expert speakers of two languages.”

Esch-Harding, Edith and Philip Riley (2003), *The bilingual family: a handbook for parents*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN 0521808626 (hardback), 0521004640 (paperback).

Festman, Julia, Gregory J. Poarch and Jean-Marc Dewaele (2017), *Raising multilingual children*. Bristol: Multilingual Matters. ISBN 9781783097562 (paperback), 9781783097593 (ebook).

From the publisher's website: “Raising a multilingual family can be both confusing and fulfilling. The authors, all multilingual parents and researchers on multilingualism, aim to provide advice and inspiration for multilingual families across the world. The latest research is used to provide a friendly, accessible guide to raising and nurturing happy multilingual children.”

Jernigan, Christine (2015), *Family language learning: learn another language, raise bilingual children*. Bristol: Multilingual Matters. ISBN: 9781783092796 (paperback), 9781783092826 (ebook).

From the publisher's website: “A practical guide designed to support, advise and encourage any parents who are hoping to raise their children bilingually. It is unique in that it focuses on parents who are not native speakers of a foreign language.”

Kenner, Charmian (2004), *Becoming biliterate: young children learning different writing systems*. Stoke on Trent, UK; Sterling, VA: Trentham Books. ISBN 1858563194.

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.

Steiner, Naomi (2009), *7 steps to raising a bilingual child*. New York: AMACOM Books. ISBN 0780814400463.

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

Thomas, Claire (2012), *Growing Up with Languages: Reflections on Multilingual Childhoods*. Bristol: Multilingual Matters. ISBN: 9781847697141 (paperback).

From the publisher's website: “this book [...] 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 [...] was researched and written by a self-help group of multilingual parents and thus remains very practical and gives clear and realistic advice.”

Tokuhama-Espinosa, Tracey (2008), *Living languages: multilingualism across the lifespan*. Westport, Conn.: Praeger. ISBN 9780275999124

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.”

- Tokuhama-Espinosa, Tracey (2001), *Raising multilingual children : foreign language acquisition and children*. Westport, Conn.: Bergin & Garvey. ISBN 0897897501
- Wang, Xiao-lei (2008), *Growing up with three languages: birth to eleven*. Bristol: Multilingual Matters. ISBN: 9781847691064 (paperback), 9781847695673 (ebook).  
 From the publisher's website: "This book is based on an eleven-year observation of two children who were simultaneously exposed to three languages from birth. It tells the story of two parents from different cultural, linguistic, and ethnic-racial backgrounds who joined to raise their two children with their heritage languages outside their native countries. It also tells the children's story and the way they negotiated three cultures and languages and developed a trilingual identity."
- Wang, Xiao-lei (2011), *Learning to read and write in the multilingual family*. Bristol: Multilingual Matters. ISBN: 9781847693693.  
 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."
- Wang, Xiao-lei (2015), *Maintaining three languages: the teenage years*. Bristol: Multilingual Matters. ISBN: 9781783094479 (paperback), 9781783094509 (ebook).  
 From the publisher's website: "In this follow-up to *Growing up with Three Languages: Birth to Eleven*, Xiao-lei Wang offers a unique insight into the dynamics of a multilingual family. She combines practical, evidence-based advice with rich detail from observations of her own family to offer support and inspiration on an aspect of multilingual parenting that has received comparatively little attention."
- Yates, Linda, Agnes Terraschke and Beth Zielinski (2012), *Planning language use in bilingual families*. [Unpublished Report for the Department of Immigration and Citizenship], available at [www.ling.mq.edu.au/centres/amep\\_long\\_study/Planning Language Use in bilingual families 2012.pdf](http://www.ling.mq.edu.au/centres/amep_long_study/Planning_Language_Use_in_bilingual_families_2012.pdf).
- Zurer-Pearson, Barbara (2008) *Raising a bilingual child: A step by step guide*. New York: Living Language. ISBN: 9781400023349.  
 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. [...] 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."

## Internet resources

*Bilingual Avenue* [www.bilingualavenue.com](http://www.bilingualavenue.com), also on Facebook: bilingualavenue

A website run by Marianna Du Bosq, "a bilingual mama, former bilingual educator, lifetime language learner", devoted to bilingual parenting and bilingual education. The main feature is a weekly podcast (also available on iTunes); 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](http://www.bilingualfamilies.net), also on Facebook: 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](http://www.bilingualfamilies.net/pages/en/links-resources.php)) is particularly helpful.

*Bilingualism Matters* [www.bilingualism-matters.ppls.ed.ac.uk/](http://www.bilingualism-matters.ppls.ed.ac.uk/)

Originally 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/>)

*Bilingual Monkeys* <http://bilingualmonkeys.com/>

A website offering “ideas and inspiration for raising bilingual kids (without going bananas)”! Blog, newsletter, online forum “The Bilingual Zoo”, YouTube channel “Bilingual Monkeys TV” – all run by Adam Beck, a teacher, author and parent.

*Language on the Move* [www.languageonthemove.com/](http://www.languageonthemove.com/)

A website run by Prof Ingrid Piller and colleagues from Macquarie University with a more academic focus. It presents current sociolinguistic research “devoted to multilingualism, language learning and intercultural communication in the contexts of globalization and migration”. The category “multilingual families” [www.languageonthemove.com/category/multilingual-families/](http://www.languageonthemove.com/category/multilingual-families/) is particularly relevant, but you can also search for “bilingual parenting”, “bilingual education”, “multilingualism” etc.

*Multilingual Families* [www.multilingual-families.eu/](http://www.multilingual-families.eu/)

A European project developing resources and information for families raising their children multilingually. Among the resources available are: activities to support multilingualism at home; a self-access guide for parents; an introductory brochure and case studies; and an E-storybook for children.

*Multilingual living*, <http://www.multilingualliving.com/>, also on Facebook: multilingualliving and Twitter: @MultiLingLiving.

Founded as the Bilingual/Bicultural Family Network by Corey Heller in 2003, “*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.”

Multilingual Manchester (2016), *Your language is a gift*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8VJZ5ZCjIRg>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wOWzn69DWXE> (version with subtitles).

A short film that explores young children's bilingual language development in the family setting, from the point of view of multilingual families in Manchester, UK.

*Multilingual Parenting* <https://multilingualparenting.com/>

Website run by parent, teacher and consultant Rita Rosenback with text & video blog and extensive Q&A archive with practical advice, e.g. “10 things bilingual children do really well” or “Things that can go wrong when raising a bilingual child”.

*Raising Children* <https://raisingchildren.net.au/>

This Australian parenting website has resources and background information about bilingualism and multilingualism, for example articles on ‘Bilingualism and bilingual children: benefits and challenges’ or ‘Raising bilingual children: options and tips’. Search for bilingualism or multilingualism.

South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, *Helping your child learn two languages*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PIrD7PkeDdg&list=PLbw1KgO1-UrG-S24dTy9xDv7D6t0DN0IY&index=1>

A good set of simple videos encouraging parents to speak and read to their pre-school children in their home language. Additional versions with subtitles in Arabic, Chinese, Nepali and Bangla.

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