

PROS OF LEARNING FOREIGN LANGUAGES AT A YOUNG AGE

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Abstract:

This article explores the myriad benefits of learning foreign languages during childhood, emphasizing the critical developmental period leading up to the teenage years. It highlights cognitive enhancements, improved academic performance, and the fostering of cultural awareness. The piece discusses how early language acquisition can bolster communication skills, social interactions, and future career opportunities. Additionally, it addresses the personal growth aspects, such as increased confidence and adaptability, while laying a strong foundation for lifelong learning. Overall, the article advocates for the importance of early foreign language education as a vital investment in children's holistic development.

Key words: Native, bilingual, Masari Ibuka, Japan, monolingual, cognitive skills.

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Introduction

In today's increasingly interconnected world, the ability to communicate in multiple languages is more valuable than ever. Living in globalization period impacts on our daily life and learning aspects of the life for our younger generation. In each countries younger learners learn at least 2 languages and they become bilingual person. Learning foreign languages at a young age offers numerous advantages for children, especially as they transition into their teenage years. Researches have shown that early language acquisition not only enhances cognitive development but also enriches academic performance and fosters cultural awareness. As children navigate the complexities of growing up, bilingualism can provide them with vital social skills and a deeper understanding of diverse perspectives. This article explores the significant benefits of introducing foreign languages early, highlighting how such skills can shape a child's future both personally and professionally. In the world, there is a school which is specialized on teach foreign languages, it is well-known and it is named Montessori school.

Montessori schools offer a distinctive approach to teaching foreign languages, leveraging their child-centered philosophy to create engaging and effective learning environments. In fact, children have adaptation to learn new language, however they can speak in their native language. Many scholar believe that they learn easily everything, that's the reason why many parents want them to teach in early age. As a result, they become bilingual person who can speak 2 or more than languages.

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Montessori schools provide an ideal environment for young children to learn foreign languages, leveraging their unique educational philosophy to foster language acquisition in engaging and effective ways. Here are several key aspects of how Montessori methods support language development in early learners:

Immersive Language Environment

Natural Exposure: Foreign languages are woven into daily activities, creating an immersive experience that helps children absorb the language naturally.

Cultural Integration: Lessons often include cultural elements, enhancing understanding and appreciation of the language's context.

Multi-Sensory Learning

Hands-On Materials: Montessori classrooms use tactile resources—like language cards and objects—that engage multiple senses, making learning more interactive and memorable.

Active Participation: Activities such as singing the songs, storytelling, and role-playing encourage children to use the language in real-life contexts, promoting active learning. In addition to, there are some useful well-known books about learning languages as a second language for children. One of them, a famous writer and co-founder of Sony company, Masaru Ibuka invested in early childhood education, he underscored the importance of infant development through his influential book, “Kindergarten Is Too Late”. In this work, he argues for the necessity of nurturing a child's potential from birth, emphasizing that critical developmental milestones occur in the earliest years. His progressive ideas have left a lasting legacy, shaping both the fields of technology and educational theory, and advocating for a foundational approach to learning that begins long before formal schooling.

In “Kindergarten Is Too Late,” Masaru Ibuka emphasizes the critical importance of the early years in a child's development. This phase, often referred to as the “critical period,” is a time of immense potential for cognitive, emotional, and physical growth. During these formative years, a child's brain is remarkably malleable and receptive to learning, making it an ideal time for educational interventions that can lay the groundwork for lifelong success.

Researches in psychology, neuroscience, and education strongly supports the need for early education. Studies show that the brain experiences rapid development during the first few years of life, forming neural connections at an extraordinary rate. These early connections shape the brain's architecture, influencing key cognitive processes such as language acquisition, problem-solving, and social skills. By investing in early childhood education, we can harness this critical period to foster a child's innate potential and create a strong foundation for their future learning and development. This book helps parents to create revolutionary background for children's development. Everybody tried to read this book and got good impression via Masaru Ibuka's review. In fact, Japan is the only country which spends less money for military and more money on education.

In conclusion, the early year of a child's life represents a pivotal period for educational and developmental interventions. The concept of the critical period highlights the urgent need to prioritize early childhood education, as it is essential for unlocking a child's future success. By applying insights from research in psychology and neuroscience, society can ensure that every child receives the stimulation and support necessary to thrive during these formative years. Investing

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in early education not only benefits individual children but also fosters a healthier, more capable generation ready to face the challenges of the future.

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