Bilingual: Como Você Diz …

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Abstract

Ever wonder what the positive affects of being bilingual are? A couple benefits of speaking more than one language are better cognitive skills, which in turn will help improve academic grades, and increase your odds of delaying the onset of dementia. There are many people who believe teaching a child multiple languages at a young age is a bad idea. Through research those ideas have either been proven wrong or proven not to last. When planning your future, you want to see health and prosperity and being able to speak multiple languages will get you off on the right foot.

Bilingual: Como Você Diz …

Ola! Guten Tag! Nei Ho! Hello! Many people may be able to recognize one maybe two of these languages but only one in four Americans know another language well enough to hold a conversation (McComb, 2001). With so many benefits of knowing multiple languages the statistic of one in four Americans knowing another language is shocking. In high school the push to take a foreign language class out weighed the push to take any shop or tech class. This shows how important school officials feel about people being bilingual. Being bilingual improves thinking skills and has shown to help delay dementia, although some believe children have a hard time grasping the concept of speaking two languages.

Encouraging the education of learning a second language can have a huge impact on a person’s thinking skills. A bilingual person is said to be a more creative thinker, they can come up with more then one word to describe and idea or object (Lifestyle, 2012). This will help when a person is in a situation where they need to explain something to another person. Also, when it comes to intellectual growth, a person who knows multiple languages scores higher on tests and exams. Many people think that knowing multiple languages will help only with word tests but it also helps with math skills and logical thinking skills (Ecole Bilingue, 2012). Learning another language will prepare you for better academic years all around. Why would you not want to take the advantage of having a greater thought process and higher test scores?

Not only will you increase your grades by being bilingual but also you will increase your odds of putting off the effects of dementia. Stimulating the brain physically and mentally can protect it from the decline that causes dementia (CBC News, 2012). Many people do crossword puzzles or other mental games that exercise their mind and keep it sharp. Speaking at least two languages exercises your mind by being able to go back and forth between languages. Many times people include two languages when they speak and this improves their brain function. "Nobody spends all day every day doing crossword puzzles, but everybody spends all day every day talking, it's a way to get massive doses of this stimulating activity without doing anything special" (Bialystok, 2012, para.12). The average monolingual person who is diagnosed with dementia is 75.4 years old and the average bilingual person diagnosed with dementia is 78.6 years old (CBC News, 2012). Exercising your mind with such ease as a gossip day with friends seems like such an easy thing to do and yet it gives you and average of 3.2 years longer with your family and friends.

Besides increased intellectual skills and mental health, some people think being bilingual can be quite tricky. They believe children have a hard time not mixing the two languages they are taught into one sentence causing some people to think that they cannot tell the languages apart (Soto, 2012). Many times when a child is learning two languages one language has more influence on them then the other. This results in the child injecting words in the language they know well into conversations in the language they do not know as well. “Experts agree that mixing is temporary” (Soto, 2012, para.13) Many people actualy enjoy mixing their languages when they speak; one example is “spanglish”, the mixing of Spanish and English. Some people think that a child who is taught two languages will be behind in learning how to speak and having smaller vocabularies in both languages, when in actuality “Their rate of language acquisition is the same as that of their monolingual counterparts” (Francois Grosjean, 2012, para.6). Most of the negative facts and beliefs about being bilingual resolve themselves or have been proven wrong through research. Either way, the positive aspects definitely outweighs the negative.

Bilingualism is encouraged because it increases intellectual growth and delays the onset of dementia, even though some believe it confuses children and causes them delay in reaching vocal milestones. Learning a foreign language is not an easy task, it takes patience and practice. It is said that young children can pick up a second or even third language faster then an adult can. This is because a child goes through a stage of learning to speak, and many people take advantage of this and inspire the child to speak in multiple languages. Becoming bilingual has so many positive affects on a persons life, and starting early will help take advantage of all the benefits to the fullest. Why would you hesitate to learn a second language when it will help you academically and increase your mental health?

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