

Contents

Conversation 1

1. What are the most important factors in bilingual parenting during the first couple of years?
2. How many languages can a child acquire simultaneously?
3. Why are 'direct speech' and an 'appropriate strategy' so important during the first couple of years?
4. Should I use only one language with my child during the first couple of years?
5. At what age do my kids become aware of the fact that they are speaking more than one language? How do they sort the world around them in relation to their languages?
6. How can you create a 'real need for all languages' in a bilingual or multilingual environment?
7. My partner and I speak the same language, our child gets exposed to a new language in our new home country. Will our kid become bilingual?
8. Should I talk to my kids in the language of the kindergarten to help them with this new language?
9. Our child still doesn't speak the language of the kindergarten after 6 months. Is this a normal reaction to a new language?
10. Our child refuses to use my language, in spite of being able to speak it. What is happening? Is there anything I can do about it?
11. My partner doesn't want me to use my language with the kids whenever he is around. Will they still become bilingual if I respect his wish?
12. How can I persuade my partner to accept my language?
13. Our child doesn't yet speak the language of his father and his grandparents. How should I cope with this in order to avoid tension in the family?
14. How can I support the bilingual upbringing of my kids if I don't speak my partner's language? How can I avoid language-based conflicts in the family?
15. Will my child be able to learn his mother tongue, even if it's a very difficult language?
16. Are there any language pairs that go together better than others? Is it easier for a bilingual child to learn certain language pairs than others?
17. Are bilingual kids accent-free in both of their languages?
18. Do bilingual toddlers start speaking later than monolinguals? How about trilingual or multilingual children?
19. In what way is childhood trilingualism different from bilingualism? What factors make a trilingual upbringing successful?
20. Do trilingual kids know all of their languages equally well?
21. There are four languages present in our family. Is it OK for our kids if we use English, our couple language, between ourselves, even though we are not native speakers of it?

22. Is it feasible to change the language of communication with my kids? If so, what is the best way of doing it? How long does it take to accomplish such a change?
23. I was brought up bilingually. Which language should I choose to speak to my kids?
24. Are bilingual parents automatically better at raising bilingual kids than their monolingual counterparts?

Conversation 2

25. Which aspects of bilingual parenting gain in importance as kids get older and start formal schooling?
26. How can I pass on my cultural heritage to our kids in everyday family life?
27. Why are my kids constantly mixing their two languages while speaking? What are the reasons behind it?
28. Should I correct my kids when they mix languages, or should I let them continue mixing?
29. Can I influence which language my kids speak to me and how often they mix their languages? Are there any techniques that would help?
30. My kids play and talk only in the majority language among themselves. How can I change their language of communication?
31. Why do my kids have very different language levels in their minority language although I applied the same strategy with them?
32. Which language should I use with my kids when other people who don't understand my language are around? Should I make an exception and use the majority language with them, or should I stick to my own language and not worry about whether others understand us?
33. What type of school should we choose for our bilingual kids?
34. What should we do if there are no bilingual schooling opportunities for our kids?
35. Which language should I use to deal with my child's homework? Should I explain it in my language, or in the language of the school, or both?
36. What is the difference between the 'majority language' and the 'minority language'? Why is it important to make a distinction?
37. Can kids forget their mother tongue or father tongue?
38. Is there a certain age after which kids won't forget their mother or father tongue?
39. Is language political?
40. What are the advantages of a bilingual or multilingual upbringing?