
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 23 SEPTEMBER 2010

Building language skills more critical for boys than girls, study finds

Developing language skills appears to be more important for boys than girls in helping them to develop self-control and, ultimately, succeed in school, according to a study led by a Michigan State University researcher. The researchers examined data on children as they aged from 1 to 3 and their mothers who participated in the National Early Head Start Research and Evaluation study. As with previous research, Vallotton and Ayoub found that language skills – specifically the building of vocabulary – help children regulate their emotions and behavior and that boys lag behind girls in both language skills and self-regulation. What was surprising, Vallotton said, was that language skills seemed so much more important to the regulation of boys' behavior. While girls overall seemed to have a more natural ability to control themselves and focus, boys with a strong vocabulary showed a dramatic increase in this ability to self-regulate – even doing as well in this regard as girls with a strong vocabulary.

Oberlin College students make foreign language elementary

These kindergartners are part of a program that began six years ago in the Oberlin school system to expose foreign language to younger children. "It seems like the younger they are, the more they pick up the language," said teacher Mari Castaldi. "We don't speak any English, but the kids have been open and receptive to it. "There's times when we use hand gestures as we're telling them to do something in Spanish and even though it's never explained to them what we're saying, by year end they can tell you exactly what it means." Castaldi, 21, is a politics and Latin American studies major at Oberlin College, and she is one of about 50 college students who teach Spanish to kindergarten through fifth grade at Oberlin's public elementary schools. Students teach the courses for college credit through a program started in 2004 by Kim Faber, a linguistics professor at the college.

How to Find the Time to Learn a New Foreign Language

With the frenetic rhythm of nowadays, it often seems impossible to fit a(nother) foreign language into your busy schedule. But when you think of the benefits this new knowledge entails, it also seems impossible not to try, right? So, what can you do to bring in the magic and conjure up enough time to start learning a language? Here are seven of my favorite strategies...

Gathering around la Mesa

Paul Worley, who played a large part in resuming the meetings after they disbanded several years ago, says that programs like La Mesa Española are great for students who would like to improve their language skills. One of the definite advantages of these meetings is the informal atmosphere; the conversation, instead of classroom topics like history and culture, tends to be about things like family, summer vacations and the big game the weekend before.

It's Never Too Late To Learn

Every day in Pickens County we have adults who are struggling with literacy or language skills, who struggle to find or keep a job, or who are not prepared to enter college or vocational training. Progress is being made through the Adult Learning program.

First Ever English Writing Skills Application for iPhone/iPad Launched on iTunes

Extentia and Expert English Teacher (EET) today announced the launch of iExpert English, the first application for iPhone and iPad that offers comprehensive guidance for writing in English. The iExpert English application is designed for assistance with English language tests such as TOEFL and IELTS, essays, writing assignments, and all written communication. EET provides the content for the application, which is the result of research and testing by language test specialists around the world.

Don't Learn Foreign Languages, I-Bankers

Investment banks want someone capable of "speed reading" fluent enough to compete with native speakers. It's nearly impossible that you'll get to that level—particularly with a language like Arabic or Mandarin—merely by studying in college. So by all means, study foreign languages, the blog advises. But don't base your choice on what would be "most 'useful' for investment banking."

PREVIOUS NEWS

Reframing the National Security Language Policy

This national language policy, because it encourages more U.S. citizens to learn multiple languages, provides an important counterbalance to the Official English legislation that Senator James Inhofe introduced during the 2006 congressional debates on immigration reform and that his fellow senators approved by a 63-34 vote (Inhofe Natl.). Senator Inhofe's English Language Amendment targets immigrants in particular, demanding that they learn English as a means to prevent them from "importing dangerous, deadly philosophies that go against our American ideals" ("Inhofe Statement"). Although President Bush and other federal officials might share the same belief that all people living in the United States need to learn English, they have also sought to encourage—and to fund programs that enable—all U.S. citizens to learn multiple languages.

Rifle: Check. Helmet: Check. Schmoozing: Check.

(Washington Post)...Ian Shapira

As U.S. forces continue fighting the Taliban in Afghanistan, some service members are struggling with a relatively new kind of training beyond marksmanship or rapid-response attacks: learning how to use cunning, charm and empathy to stabilize a war zone.

The Terror Translators

To bolster counterterrorism operations after 9/11, the Police Department expanded its Intelligence Division — run by [David Cohen](#), a 30-year veteran of the [C.I.A.](#) — with detectives who had mainly spent their careers chasing street gangs, drug lords and violent Mafiosi. Such trained investigators brought with them specific skills the department thought would translate into the fight against terror: the ability to read a suspect's manner and the talent for managing secret informants. What they needed, in turn, were people to help them translate their skills to new terrain, people with a firm cultural grasp of the suspects they were meant to be pursuing. Over the years, a gang detective in the Bronx will probably have developed a radar able to determine at a glance the meaning of a hand gesture or a prison tattoo. But, as one former intelligence detective said of potential Islamic extremists, "when we first started, we didn't even know they prayed on Fridays."

The Critical Language Needs of the United States

For example, the Association of American Universities (AAU) and the American Council on Education's Coalition for International Education (CIE) both applaud the government's efforts to expand foreign language and study abroad programs, even as they explain that, for the desired ends to be reached, the federal government must increase its basic funding of science, mathematics, and foreign language research by 8 to 10 percent annually for the next seven years. The CIE in particular recommends that, rather than appropriate NSLI funds to create new programs, Congress should redirect this money to bolster programs that have already been established through both Title VI of the Higher Education Act, which specifically targets international education programs, and the Fulbright-Hays legislation, which provides material support for study abroad programs.

Fulbright scholars share worldviews with students

"Our FLTAs are also ambassadors of their home countries and cultures. We hope that instructors and student groups will invite them to talk about their home cultures, and what they are observing about the U.S., Texas and campus life at St. Edward's. The more we can learn about other cultures...the better,"

Randle said. Lu is learning as well. She attends classes in Second Language Acquisition and Methodology (LING 3339) and the American Experience.

Though living in Austin is Lu's first American experience, it is not her first experience in an English-speaking country. She lived in England for three years and attended the University of York, where she earned a Master's degree in Second Language Acquisition. Scholars studying second language acquisition examine how people learn a foreign language. "I want to learn how the field is being developed in the U.S.," Lu said.

Profs. present 'the immigrant paradox'

New research shows that immigrant children are performing well both in school and in the community & - a phenomenon coined the "Immigrant Paradox" by Professor of Education Cynthia Garcia Coll. The researchers found that first-generation immigrant children are outperforming the more acculturated second- and third-generation children academically and behaviorally. The study shows that although first-generation immigrant children are often behind American-born peers in school, they catch up or even surpass them by the late-elementary years. First-generation children also have better attitudes toward school than second- and third-generation children, which has manifested in higher standardized test scores and GPAs for some groups. They also demonstrated lower levels of delinquency and involvement in risk behaviors.

Mercy Hospital Helps Fill Language Gap With Interpreter Training

Mercy Health System, in conjunction with Southern Wisconsin Interpreting and Translation Services (SWITS Ltd.), will offer a new interpreter training seminar for individuals proficient in two languages Friday, Oct. 1 and Saturday, Oct. 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Mercy Conference Center located inside Mercy Hospital Janesville. The seminar is facilitated by Saul Arteaga, director of SWITS Ltd. and will cover the fundamentals of interpreting, the National Council on Interpreting in Health Care Code of Ethics and the role of the interpreter in the medical and community setting. Mercy's collaboration with SWITS will teach the necessary interpretation skills to improve health care communication for individuals with limited English proficiency.

Foreign language education targeted by Congress

On the last day of the 111th Congress, a bill sponsored by U.S. Congressional Representatives Rush Holt (D-NJ) and Paul Tonko (D-NY) was quietly introduced. Although it lacked media fanfare at the time, its contents are headline-worthy. The bill, H.R. 6036, or the Excellence and Innovation in Language Learning Act, cites a pervasive lack of foreign language capacity that threatens the security and economic well-being of the United States. Holt and Tonko propose legislation that would allow every young American to become proficient in a second language—in addition to English—within a generation.

Award Winning Journalist Talks Media Relations With DoD's Warrior Diplomats

More than 30 military students designated as Foreign Area Officers (FAO) got the inside scoop on media relations from award-winning reporter Martin Savidge, Sept. 15, part of the latest Joint Foreign Area Officer Skill Sustainment Pilot Program (JFSSPP) course at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS).

Marines find gender useful as a weapon in Afghanistan

Sgt. Vanessa Jones and her teammates filed through the countryside with a squad of U.S. infantrymen and Afghan troops. They pushed through tall grass and leaped over canals, spilling into fields of sunflowers and the emerald spikes of marijuana plants rustling above their helmets. Then they waited, tucked into a ridge of dirt, while fellow Marines checked on a bomb dug into the road. Jones and her partner, Lance Cpl. Yvonne Blanco, were among a group of 40 volunteers who deployed to Afghanistan this spring to serve as Female Engagement Teams, a detachment organized by the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force at [Camp Pendleton](#).

Ga. university gets \$1.2M for language training

A university in north Georgia will receive \$1.2 million dollars to train soldiers in foreign languages. North Georgia College & State University announced it's received a contract to supplement language training offered by the U.S. Army's Defense Language Institute. Students have enrolled this fall in the school's new Strategic Language Institute Program, which teaches Arabic and Chinese. Students take two semesters of intensive foreign language courses.

Languages Create a Cultural Compass, Says Mara-Lee Bierman, Winner of a National Outstanding Teacher Award

The study of foreign languages is enjoying a surge in popularity as young and adult students see global opportunities for learning and employment in the 21st century —and Mara-Lee Bierman is on the cutting edge. "The study of foreign languages offers a cultural compass to navigate the world," says the Edgemont resident. "Ethnic and linguistic diversity are part of our global economy. Understanding others is a national security tool.