

It is commonly said that learning a second language is more difficult the older you get. This is why many parents choose to enroll their children in foreign language classes at a young age, to give them a head start. But what are the benefits of learning a second language from an early age? Below are four reasons why it's advantageous for kids to start learning a new language early on.

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### 1. Kids have a natural ability to learn languages.

Young children are like sponges when it comes to learning new things. They have what linguists call “language acquisition devices” in their brains, which allows them to absorb [grammar rules and vocabulary](#) quickly. This is why kids can often pick up a second language faster than adults.



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It's easier for kids to learn [pronunciation](#). Since children are still in the process of learning how to speak, they haven't developed any bad habits yet when it comes to pronunciation. This means that

they can more easily mimic the sounds of a new language, which leads to better pronunciation down the road. Kids have a longer “critical period” for [language learning](#). The “critical period” is the time in life when the brain is best equipped for learning a new language. This period starts to decline around the age of puberty, which is why it generally becomes more difficult to learn a new language as an adult. However, because kids have a longer critical period, they can still reap the benefits of learning a new language even into their teenage years.

## 2. Learning a second language can help boost a child’s cognitive abilities.

Learning a second language can boost brain development. A recent study showed that bilingual children have better executive functioning skills than those who only speak one language. These skills are important for tasks such as organization, planning, and problem-solving. Additionally, bilingualism has been linked to higher IQ scores, better multitasking abilities, and enhanced memory skills. All of these benefits can help give kids a leg up both academically and in the workplace. It can help them better understand their first language. By learning a second language, kids can gain a better understanding of their native language. This is because they’re exposed to different grammar rules and vocabulary, which can in turn help them to better understand their language. Additionally, kids who learn a second language often have an easier time understanding concepts in other subject areas, such as math and science.



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## 3. It can promote social and cultural awareness.

Learning a second language can help kids to become more aware of [other cultures](#). They’re exposed to new customs, traditions, and ways of life, which can help them to develop a greater appreciation for diversity. Additionally, bilingual kids often have an easier time making friends with



those who speak the same language. This is because they already have a common interest and can communicate more easily. Additionally, bilingual kids often have an easier time traveling and living in foreign countries. It can be fun! Learning a new language can open up a whole new world for kids. They get to learn about different cultures, make new friends, and explore new places. Additionally, kids often find learning a second language to be enjoyable and rewarding.



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#### **4. It can lead to better career opportunities.**

In today's global economy, employers are increasingly looking for candidates who are bilingual or multilingual. This is because these employees are better equipped to communicate with people from other cultures and regions. Additionally, being bilingual often leads to higher salaries and better job prospects. It can also help kids to stand out when applying for college. In a competitive admissions process, bilingualism can be a valuable asset. Colleges are looking for students who have the skills

and abilities to succeed in a global economy. Additionally, bilingual kids often have an easier time studying abroad and participating in [international programs](#).



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## 5. It can help to preserve cultural heritage.

For kids from immigrant families or minority groups, learning a second language can help to preserve their [cultural heritage](#). This is because they're able to maintain ties to their native language and culture. Additionally, bilingual kids often have a stronger sense of identity in their heritage. They're also more likely to pass on their language and culture to future generations.



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## 6. Learning a third language.

Some research has shown that bilingual people find it easier to learn a third language. This is because they're already familiar with the concepts of grammar and vocabulary. Additionally, bilingual kids often have an easier time learning other languages in the future. This is a valuable skill in today's global economy. Most knowledge today is indeed in English, but a lot of research and publications in recent years have been published in Chinese and Korean for example. So, if you want to stay ahead of the curve, learning a third language may give you the edge you need.





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## Cost of learning a second language

Most parents know all the benefits related to a second language learning, but many cannot afford it. A study from Europe showed that the average cost of sending a child to a bilingual school is about \$1,700 per year - and that's on top of the cost of regular tuition. In the U.S., the average cost of private language classes is about \$15 per hour. In [Korea](#), Japan, and [China](#) 1 hour of private lessons with a native speaker of English can range from \$20-\$50. Fortunately, in recent years with the explosion of online teaching/learning technology, there are many free English teaching/learning materials available to all levels of students.

For example [BBC English](#), [British Council](#), [Randall's ESL Lab](#), and many, many more.

## Conclusion

Overall, there are many benefits to learning a second language from an early age. Bilingual kids often have an easier time making friends, traveling, and finding good jobs. Additionally, learning a second language can help to preserve cultural heritage. While the cost of [bilingual education](#) can be

high, there are many free resources available online. In conclusion, learning a second language is a valuable investment for kids of all ages.

## Cite this article

**APA:** EFL Cafe. (2022, June 28). Importance of Learning a Second Language from an Early Age. EFLCafe.net. <https://eflcafe.net/importance-of-learning-a-second-language-from-early-age/>

*In-text citation:* (EFL Cafe, 2024)

**MLA:** EFL Cafe "Importance of Learning a Second Language from an Early Age." EFLCafe.net, 28 Jun. 2022, <https://eflcafe.net/importance-of-learning-a-second-language-from-early-age/>.

*In-text citation:* (EFL Cafe)