

## TEACHING A LANGUAGE FROM AN EARLY AGE. DOUBTS ABOUT TEACHING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE TO BABIES

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10279410>

**Umirziyaev Umidjon Makhamadjonovich**

*English Teacher, Fergana State University, Uzbekistan*

### **Abstract**

*Learning a foreign language is an essential skill in today's globalized world. It opens doors to new cultures, helps in building relationships, and provides opportunities for better career prospects. In recent years, there has been a growing interest in foreign language acquisition in children. Research has shown that children who learn a second language at an early age have a better chance of becoming fluent speakers.*

*As time progresses and the demand to know a foreign language increases, so does the interest in teaching children a language from an early age. But there are views that if a child hears two languages before speaking, his speech will be delayed and confused. Are these reasonable? What is the earliest age to learn a language?*

### **Keywords**

*acquisition, bilingualism, multitasking, immersion*

What is the earliest time to start teaching a language?

The critical period hypothesis suggests that the earlier a child is exposed to a foreign language, the easier it is for them to acquire it. Children's brains are wired to learn languages, and they have a natural ability to pick up new words and grammar rules. This is because their brains are still developing, and they have a high degree of neuroplasticity, which means they can adapt and learn new skills quickly.

Before, knowing a language was considered a special skill, but now it has become a necessity. According to the analysis of the Montessori Academy, teaching a child a second language during the first 3-4 years of age is the best time. The reason is that at this time, the child absorbs information very well, and because his brain is actively developing, language learning strengthens brain activity.

Does language teaching delay language acquisition?

It is suggested that if a child is spoken to in two languages (for example, English and Uzbek) without language development, his language development will be delayed. However, bilingualism does not cause a child's language delay. The

words in the lexicon of a child who speaks two languages, that is, who is also taught a new language from an early age, are the same as those of a child who speaks only one language. You may have noticed that a bilingual child starts talking later, but they also normally start trying to talk between 8-15 months.

Talking to a child in more than one language alone does not cause language delay. If the child's language development is delayed, then a specialist should be consulted.

The child speaks by adding words from two languages. Is there any harm in that?

Usually, a child who is learning two languages at once can speak not only in one, but in both at the same time and use words in combination. For example, to the question "Have you had enough?" ("Qorning to'ydimi" in Uzbek), a child can answer "Yes, mummy!".

Usually, adults who know more than one language can speak the language of their choice only by finding words in that language itself. That is, they are not confused. Children are not like that. This is because they are still in the language learning process and their lexicon is just as limited as that of monolingual children. They make sentences using the words they know. It has not been proven to be harmful. On the contrary, bilingual children have the ability to differentiate between languages from an early age.

What are the benefits of early language learning?

Studies have shown that children who learn a foreign language at a young age have better cognitive abilities, including problem-solving, critical thinking, and creativity. They also have better memory retention and are more adept at multitasking. Learning a second language also improves their overall academic performance, as it helps them develop better reading and writing skills.

- Learning a language improves the functioning of the child's brain. Bilingual children are better at problem solving, concentration and planning than monolinguals;

- Provides a better understanding of other cultures;
- The ability to hear will be stronger;
- Later, when he or she grows up, they will be confident that he can learn other languages;

- Has a strong vocabulary;
- The ability to socialize improves;
- They understand the written text better;
- Self-confidence will be high.

In what ways can a child be taught a language?

There are several methods for teaching foreign languages to children. Immersion programs are one of the most effective ways of acquiring a second language. In immersion programs, children are fully immersed in the target language, and all instruction is provided in that language. This method helps children learn the language more naturally, as they are exposed to it in everyday situations.

- Introduce a new language as early as possible
- It doesn't matter how small the child is. Babies up to twelve months old can understand the sounds of any language. For example, you can teach your child words by putting on suitable and interesting songs and singing them together.

Teaching the most basic things

- If you are not fluent in the new language you want to teach your child, don't procrastinate worrying about not being able to teach it. A child's learning can be achieved by introducing the most basic things in a new language. It is necessary to pay attention to the correctness of grammar and pronunciation, because the child learns the language from the person who is teaching him or her. For example, when you see a dog, you can introduce it to a child not as a dog, but as "dog", and a bird as "bird".

- Use of interesting tools
- If the child is interested in cars, you can bring him a book about cars in the language he is learning and read together. Or, with the help of toys, you can create an atmosphere of language learning that can interest the child.

Another popular method is the use of technology in language learning. There are several apps and online programs available that make learning a second language fun and engaging for children. These programs use games, videos, and interactive activities to teach vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation.

Useful recommendations

- Should a person speak only one language?
- This strategy, proposed hundred years ago, applies the rule "One person, one language". That is, if the parents are bilingual in the family, one of them speaks to the child in one language, and the other in another language. This is recommended so that the child does not have mental stress and confusion. However, subsequent studies have found that having one person communicate with a child in either of the two languages does not interfere with language learning.

- Some families may choose the "One person, one language" strategy, while others may choose to speak mixed.

- Is it not necessary to speak two languages together?

- It is common for bilingual people to mix words from two languages to make a sentence. But studies have found that people who mix words have less vocabulary. From the age of twenty months old, a child can understand words from different languages even when they are mixed. However, he can also pick up the habit of slurring words in this way.

- Most importantly, it is never too late or too early to learn a language. If your child is a baby, you can start teaching the language even if he goes to kindergarten or school.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, foreign language acquisition in children is a valuable skill that provides numerous benefits. Children who learn a second language at an early age have better cognitive abilities, improved academic performance, and are more culturally aware. With the right approach and resources, parents and educators can help children become fluent speakers of multiple languages, opening up a world of opportunities for them.

## REFERENCES

1) Umirziyaev, U., & Abdurakhmonov, V. . (2022). FLOW THEORY. Eurasian Journal of Social Sciences, Philosophy and Culture, 2(12), 261-264.

2) Ruzieva Khayotkhon Bakhodir Qizi, & Umirziyaev Umidjon Makhamadjonovich. (2022). The meaning of "concept" in Linguistics. Texas Journal of Philology, Culture and History, 13, 4-5.

3) Umirziyaev Umidjon Makhamadjonovich, & Mukhammadjonov Salokhiddin Tulkinjon ugli. (2022). Coaching for English learning. Journal of Pedagogical Inventions and Practices, 15, 4-7.

4) Ravshanovna, G. N. (2022). TOLERANCE IN PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS PEDAGOGICAL MODEL OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT. Galaxy International Interdisciplinary Research Journal, 10(2), 95-96.

5) Abdurakhmonov, V. (2022). Functional Specificity Of Alternative Interrogative Sentences. Oriental Journal of Social Sciences, 2(03), 82-87.

6) Ravshanovna, G. N. (2021). Methods of development tolerance skills pupils in primary school. ACADEMICIA: AN INTERNATIONAL MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH JOURNAL, 11(1), 1221-1224.