

Sing, Dance and Play Teaching English and Spanish Today!

Presented by Beth Butler, Founder of The BOCA BETH Program (bocabeth.com)

The Latest and Greatest Research Stats on Bilingual Education

- 1. A 2002 study out of Miami-Dade County public schools reports that children receiving instruction in both Spanish and English scored 23-34 points higher in standardized tests' verbal and math sections. (*Dr. Joanne Urratia, 2002*)**
- 2. Dr. Ellen Bialystok, York University, conducted a study on child language acquisition. The study showed that the children who received instruction in two languages scored twice as high on language tests than their monolingual peers. These bilingual children also read sooner and demonstrated advanced problem solving capabilities. (*Dr Ellen Bialystok, 2001*)** *This same woman and her research team out of the Rotman Research Institute just reported January 2007 that bilingualism can help delay the onset of dementia by four years.*****
- 3. The latest research out of Texas suggests that children up to age 5 can successfully learn 5 languages simultaneously!**

DID YOU KNOW?!?!

- It is a requirement for students of today to have two years of a second language by college – early language introduction lays the neural pathways in a child's brain for all later language learning. Young children might learn Spanish now but choose Mandarin later in life. Their brains will be wired for later language learning.
- More than 45 million people in our country have Spanish as their native language. That represents over 29 million homes in the U.S. having Spanish as the main language in their home. More than 350 million people worldwide speak Spanish. Spanish is still the most requested language program in our country.
- The ability to learn a second language is greatest between birth and eight-ten years young. During these early years children learn languages faster than adults, retain them better and most often speak the new languages with near native or native pronunciation!

What Method or Program Should I Choose to Begin?

Bilingual Education is a great and proven method to introduce a second language to young children because it does the following:

- It provides continuing education of the child's native language while acquiring skills in the new one. Think of it this way: an infant, toddler and preschooler are still learning the mechanics of their native language. Why would you ever stop that instruction to substitute in a new language? Introduce the new language alongside the native language for better comprehension & higher self esteem.

- Bilingual Education gives children a sense of pride to speak both their native language and the new one. It allows the child to learn along with their care provider since there is a constant point of reference in the native language.
- Retention over the long run is best with the bilingual method of instruction being used. Immersion can work with young children but does not usually accomplish the positive outcomes that bilingual education provides.
- Look for a program that is fun & easy-to-use. Make certain it is integrated and incorporates the many different types of learning necessary to assist in reaching the child's developmental milestones.

Guidelines for Daily Bilingual Fun in Your Classroom

- **Infants** – 10 minutes daily; **Toddlers** – 15 minutes daily
- **Preschool Age Children** – 20 minutes daily

A song here, a DVD section there, a color sheet, calendar time in both languages, bilingual game after lunch time . . . it adds up fast and adds up fun!!!



- Use the BOCA BETH songs as a transition activity, as part of your thematic unit or as a special time of day activity (i.e. after lunch each day do two songs with the children).
- Use puppets to get in on the fun!!! (Puppets are used by therapists and teachers often to help elicit verbalization from a young child.)
- Language cards – get them for free on our web site www.bocabeth.com
- Look for **FREE** circle time activities for each BOCA BETH song along with other cool **FREE** resources – just go to the bottom of any page on our web site, look for the yellow area and find “Boca Beth Free Resource Area.”
- Sign up to get the **BOCA BETH BUZZ** . . . it's our monthly e-newsletter full of tips, additional resources, research stats and members-only specials! Ask me how!

Try our ***Boca Beth Educator's Club*** for only 5 cents per day. Curriculum based lesson plans, extra bilingual language cards and reproducible color/activity pages that tie in with each month's theme. (\$19.95/one year subscription)

- **Repetition is the key to success in any language program.**
- **Give the gift of a second language today to your children!**

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Phone toll free 877.825.2622