

WHO ARE WE



Bilingualism Matters is a research and information centre in the Faculty of English at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. It is one of over twenty international centres of Bilingualism Matters with its main quarters at the University of Edinburgh in Great Britain. We aim to raise awareness of bilingualism in families, schools and the public sector.

WHAT BILINGUALISM MATTERS CAN DO FOR PARENTS:

- answer your questions about raising bilingual children by email or in person,
- present the benefits of bi-/multilingualism at a dedicated meeting at your child's school or at your local community,
- provide access to information and resources on multilingualism via our website,
- direct you to institutions we cooperate with if you need further support.



GET IN TOUCH!

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Bilingual Families



ADAM MICKIEWICZ
UNIVERSITY
POZNAN



HELPING YOUR CHILD SUCCEED

An increasing number of Polish citizens use a language other than Polish in the home context (according to Polish Census 2011 it is over one million people). This means there are more and more families raising children with two or more languages.

Bilingual families come in all shapes and sizes, but one thing they all share is the desire to do the best for their children. Many of the fears regarding linguistic development of their children are completely unfounded.

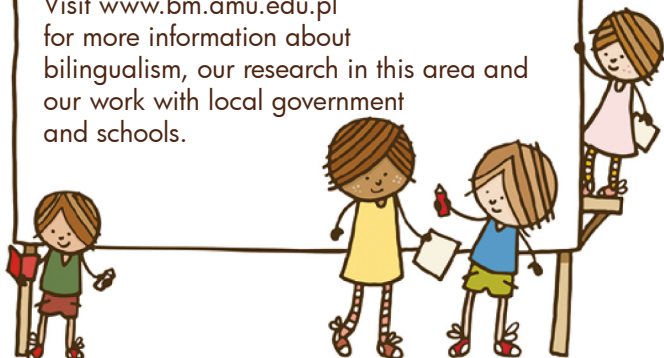
Speaking two languages:

- develops empathy and sensitivity towards other cultures and people;
- supports the development of intercultural competences;
- aids cognitive development and the ability to focus;
- makes learning new languages easier.



Bilingualism Matters @Poznań can help parents make the most of the opportunity presented by the upbringing in the multilingual environment.

Visit www.bm.amu.edu.pl for more information about bilingualism, our research in this area and our work with local government and schools.



COMMON QUESTIONS ANSWERED (FAQ)

How early should we start speaking both languages to our child?

As early as possible!
Research shows that children do not confuse the two languages no matter how early you start.

What is the best way to raise a bilingual child?

There is no 'correct' method that works for all families. What's important is that your child hears both languages in roughly equal amounts, and in a natural setting.

We are not native speakers of Polish. Should we be speaking Polish at home?

Even if you don't speak Polish at home, your child will pick up Polish very quickly once they start school. You can give your child a head start by attending play-groups and nurseries before starting school.

My two-year-old child is not speaking yet in either language – what is wrong?

Bilingual children often start talking a bit later than other children. Most will catch up soon. If the delay carries on, ask a specialist for advice.