

Psych Ed

Assessment Services

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Bilingual Education e.g. French Immersion

The value of being able to speak more than one language and the effectiveness of second language immersion programs during early elementary school years are widely recognized.

Normally developing children who have no deficits in oral language and articulation skills, learn to recognize letters by age five and can repeat rhymes (see handout describing phonological reading skills) will usually benefit from a second language immersion program.

Contraindications to placing a child in French (or other second language) immersion are:

1. articulation difficulties
2. weak oral expressive language skills: grammatical mistakes, small vocabulary (“thing”, “stuff” substituted for correct word)
3. weak receptive language skills: difficulties comprehending spoken instructions
4. weak auditory memory: difficulties recalling a brief list of instructions
5. preference for visual learning in spite of adequate auditory learning