

¿Hablas Español?

New Early Childhood Book Helps Grow Bilingual Kids

by Hannah Thelen

American culture is more diverse than ever. Technology allows us to discover people and cultures that were previously out of reach, and international travel is at an all-time high.

Parents interested in raising global citizens, who want to prepare their children for an increasingly global job market, and who value multilingualism, are committed to raising kids who speak more than one language—and they are doing their kids a favor!

Studies show that students in dual language education programs score higher in Reading and Math than their monolingual counterparts. Bilingual kids are better at multi-tasking and memorization because the part of the brain that processes language also controls their memory storage and attention span. Other benefits include higher self-esteem and an ability to better relate to, and empathize with, others.

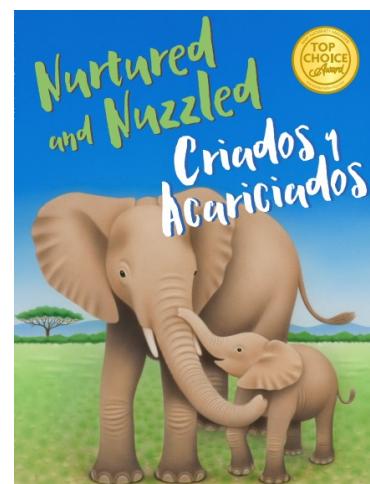


Experts agree that early exposure to multiple languages has tremendous advantages. Having a solid foundation before kids enter grade school is the best way to learn a language and retain it. Karen Rivera Geating, a Spanish language consultant in Washington D.C., explains, “It’s easier to stay interested in a language you grew up with. Starting young is the key.”

Bilingual early childhood books belong on your bookshelf. [Nurtured and Nuzzled • Criados y Acariciados](#), recently published by *Platypus Media*, is just the kind of book to get kids off to a great start. With stunning illustrations and rich vocabulary—in both English and

Spanish—the book is as engaging visually as it is verbally. Four audio files on the publisher’s webpage offer narration in English and Spanish, as well as pronunciation guides. It’s never too early to make story time bilingual!

Children’s books are great building blocks for brain development. *Nurtured and Nuzzled • Criados y Acariciados* includes a free, downloadable [Teacher’s Guide](#) with science activities and games to expand and extend the content of the book. The Guide is available in both English and Spanish at the publisher’s website.





As global cultures and languages are gaining significance for all U.S. citizens, multilingualism is increasingly important. Whether you are fluent in Spanish, English, or any other combination of languages, it has now become possible—and valuable—to expose your children to another language from an early age. With so many benefits to your children's development and future job opportunities, why not raise them bilingual?

More Resources

Children's books, home education programs, and television shows that use more than one language can be valuable tools for parents. Here are some places you can find great resources for raising bilingual children:

iColorín Colorado!: A bilingual site for educators and families of English language learners
ColorinColorado.org

De Colores: The Raza Experience in Books for Children
DeColoresReviews.Blogspot.com

Multilingual Children's Association
MultilingualChildren.org

Multilingual Parenting
MultilingualParenting.com

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