

Michael W. Dolberry

**[5.0 out of 5 stars An accessible way to start.](#)**

Reviewed in the United States on October 19, 2018

**[Verified Purchase](#)**

This is an excellent treatment of bilingual education. It deals with different family situations, from immigrants with children who speak the local language, to unilingual parents who want to help their children with a second language, it presents case studies that show the advantages and challenges may be seen. It is a very accessible book, written for parents and not for University students.

If you want to pursue bilingualism in your home, this is an excellent place to start.

glen cochrane

**[4.0 out of 5 stars Raising a Bilingual Child](#)**

Reviewed in Canada on December 26, 2012

**[Verified Purchase](#)**

This is a very good book. It covers basics, yet it isn't overly simplistic. It offers great advice in a clear, practical way. The examples and situations given are easy to understand. And, it's well organized. As a parent of a bilingual child and as a second language teacher, the ideas in this book have helped me often. Some are new and some are refreshers, seen in a little different light.

Most of the material isn't cited specifically (although it is sound, and it does bring up some research) so if you're looking for something overly academic, it might not be your style. The book can be used as a reference book for anyone involved with bilingual children, or even acts as an interesting read. I've used some of the ideas presented in the book in some of my language learning course designs, and for reviewing basic principles of teaching.

The book, towards the end, uses a case-study style of information presentation, which is nice, but it does get a bit long winded. I like the balance that Zurer has found between accessibility and complexity, in terms of information. It's a great read, and a very useful book.

Noe

**[5.0 out of 5 stars Excelent, very very informative](#)**

Reviewed in the United States on August 2, 2008

**[Verified Purchase](#)**

My husband and I speak different languages and we are expecting our first child. She is also my parents' first grandchild and they are crazy about her. Unfortunately, my parents do not speak English, and my in-laws do not speak Spanish. For us it is very important that our child has the best of both cultures and that she grows up as an independent child that is able to express herself.

We found this book interesting, very informative and easy to read. It is a great educational tool for parents who believe in spending time with their children rather than sitting them in front of the TV.

Laura

**5.0 out of 5 stars Interesting and informative read**

Reviewed in the United States on April 17, 2016

**Verified Purchase**

This book was recommended to me by a linguistics professor I contacted to get more information on how to best raise my son to be bilingual. It was a very interesting and informative read and is easy to understand for those who have not studied linguistics. I really enjoyed the sections where it broke down how children learn languages from birth. If you are thinking about raising your child bilingual or want to learn more about bilingualism, you would probably enjoy this book.

Hana Bauerova

**5.0 out of 5 stars Light reading for busy mom.**

Reviewed in the United States on January 19, 2013

**Verified Purchase**

This book is very easy to read even when busy with a kid. I finished it in two days, just by reading after putting my baby to sleep. The author is not a native speaker, so there are no phrases or expressions difficult to understand for a non-native reader as myself. It's filled with friendly tips presented with normal every day language of a mom, avoiding any scientific spam filling the pages with evidence and boring you to death.

Ana Lomba

**5.0 out of 5 stars A fantastic resource for parents who want to give their children the best education for the 21st century**

Reviewed in the United States on August 27, 2008

**Verified Purchase**

As a specialist in bilingual and world languages education, I am always on the look for good resources to recommend to parents. Zurer Pearson's book is a solid, well-researched, practical and easy-to-read tool for all those interested in raising their children in more than one language. I particularly like the author's encouragement words and recommendations for parents who are not native speakers of the second language of their choice. This book would make an excellent gift for expecting and new parents. The earlier, the better!

Candice Morgan

**5.0 out of 5 stars Interesting, Motivating and Practical**

Reviewed in the United States on December 18, 2012

**Verified Purchase**

This book was exactly what I was looking for and more. Not only does it describe the various ways of raising a bilingual child, it provides case studies with a wide variety of families, the basics of how a child learns language and it provides lots of motivation to stick with it. So happy I read this book!

[Mimi Nagel](#)

**5.0 out of 5 stars Highly recommended!**

Reviewed in the United States on February 7, 2015

**Verified Purchase**

Great book! Any time I feel like giving up on speaking German with my kids I am reminded of the science behind bilingualism.

[Alice E. Pierce](#)

**5.0 out of 5 stars Easy to Read and Full of Great Academic Studies!**

Reviewed in the United States on June 25, 2008

Chapter Two on Learning a First Language is the best thing I have read on First Language Acquisition and I plan to tell the professors where I work that this is the text they should use for their courses on First and Second Language Acquisition (which I have taught for four years). The information is presented in a concise and easy to understand manner so that scholars and parents alike will find it useful and interesting. I think any parent or scholar would find this a useful resource whether they are looking to understand their child's development or trying to find research to back their claims on the benefits of bilingualism. This book is a gold mine of information backed in research. There is nothing that I have read so far on the market that explains all this in such detail and in such a easy way to understand. This is a must as a textbook for a class on language acquisition or as a manual for parents to use as a reference.

**A SIGH OF RELIEF FOR ATTEMPTING TO BE BILINGUAL AT HOME**

After reading the introduction and the first chapter on The benefits of Childhood Bilingualism, I breathed a sigh of relief. I did not know until reading this book that there were so many other parents like myself who did not grow up speaking another language, yet they are teaching a second language to their children. The book discusses the phenomenon of so many Americans in this generation having the opportunity to travel and experience other languages and cultures. This has created a niche of people in the U.S. who are raising their children with the values and languages they acquired abroad. I live in an English-Only state with everyone questioning my reasons for bringing up my daughter in the two languages of Spanish and English. It is nice to find a home for my feelings and know there is a larger community of people out there who are following in the same footsteps

towards bilingualism. Thank you for giving me hope and appreciation for what I am attempting to do by publishing this book.

[Laurie Davidson, Mucho Gusto Spanish](#)

**[5.0 out of 5 stars A practical, encouraging, and realistic guide for bilingual families](#)**

Reviewed in the United States on November 3, 2010

In the Spanish music and movement program for young children that I direct, I recommend Barbara Pearson's book to all the parents, whether they come from monolingual or multilingual homes.

I find the book very encouraging. My husband and I (both native speakers of English) are raising our three children bilingually. I re-read parts of the book when I want to be re-energized, sometimes to find what our next steps are, sometimes just to be reminded why we're doing it. With young children in the house, it took me a little while to get around to reading the sections with background information about bilinguals, but when I did, I found them fascinating and accessible.

I don't understand how someone can think this book is not objective. Pearson addresses so many different scenarios and types of bilingual households that it's easy to find yourself in the book. I feel she bends over backwards to include as many different perspectives as possible, including people who tried to raise a bilingual child, but let it go. She is practical and realistic. She lets you know that bilingualism doesn't just happen unless someone helps it happen. It takes commitment and a certain amount of outside help, which isn't always available.

I keep a couple of copies on hand, and lend them to people when they have questions I can't answer. I am thrilled that it's just been published in Spanish - Hijo Bilingüe - so now I can recommend the book to my Spanish speaking families as well.

Maria D. Velho Blanco

**[5.0 out of 5 stars A masterpiece for bilingual raising](#)**

Reviewed in Brazil on December 14, 2020

**[Verified Purchase](#)**

A very complete book about bilingual raising's most common questions, concerns, problems, fears. Based on research and real cases and experiences

Prime Chica

**[3.0 out of 5 stars Very informative on an academic level](#)**

Reviewed in the United States on January 5, 2011

**[Verified Purchase](#)**

I found this book helpful in getting my husband and I started on a path to bilingualism. The author discusses different approaches. I bought this book because it had a whole section on OPOL (One Parent One Language), which is what we are trying.

The reason I only gave it 3 stars is because I found myself reading (or as I interpreted) many justifications as to why bilingualism works/ is important. I felt the author was trying to sell me on educating my child to be bilingual...I bought the book for a reason - obviously I believe in bilingualism, don't try to then sell me on it in every chapter.

The book was very informative and the author has done lots of research. The book in itself is very helpful.

tencutza

**3.0 out of 5 stars pas mal**

Reviewed in France on October 8, 2013

**Verified Purchase**

J'ai retenu quelques idées fort précieuses. Autrement, un livre très théorique et surtout utile pour des professionnels. Dommage que ce genre de livre ne soit pas traduit en français.

[Sandra R. Castro](#)

**2.0 out of 5 stars Interesting but not useful**

Reviewed in the United States on January 22, 2013

**Verified Purchase**

I was hoping this book was a practical/hands on guide with advise on raising a bilingual child, but so far it just has a lot of info on cognitive development and academic studies. The little practical advise that is in there is very basic and if you're bilingual yourself there isn't much that you couldn't figure out from your own experience. The advise given is pretty obvious common sense for anyone who speaks two or more languages and/or has worked with bilingual children/families in the past.

If you enjoy psychological/cognitive development studies and discussions OR if you don't speak another language and want to get your children to be bilingual then you may get value from this book and enjoy it. If you're a bilingual parent looking to help your child in the bilingual road to hopefully have the same or better skills than you have then not a good read.