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VEPACHEDU EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

మన సంస్కృతి

Mana Sanskriti (Our Culture)

Chief Editor: Dr. Sreenivasarao Vepachedu, MS, JD, PhD, LLM

Language, Culture and Traditions

Any culture's survival depends on its ability to continue its language and traditions. In this global economy, every language together with its culture is at peril due to the inescapable domination of English language and Western culture. Bilingualism has been a remedy for this problem for centuries. To be effective, bilingualism should be practiced from the birth, so that both languages are equal and like mother tongue. A dose of music will help it. It is up to you to decide what language and music are good for your child and for the cultural survival of your tribe/nation/state.

While much research in the US has examined the effects of bilingual education on Spanish-speaking students, a new study in the Journal of Public Economics found that elementary students who speak English as their home language and were enrolled in schools with bilingual education programs performed much better on state math and reading tests than native English-speaking students at schools without bilingual education programs. <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/09/130910105000.htm>

However, a thesis in German from the University of Gothenburg shows that bilingual upper secondary school pupils perform somewhat below average in language tests, compared with those who only speak one language. Many studies show that bilingual pupils have advantages, but this applies primarily in countries where the pupils being studied speak two national languages, such as in Spain (Spanish and Catalan/Basque). The cognitive advantages do not become apparent until the bilingual pupil has a high and age-adjusted level of proficiency in both languages. <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/05/110509113300.htm>

Findings, published online in Cognition, offer new insight into how children learn the rituals and cultural practices of their communities. Attention to social cues and contextual information guides children's imitation, a key component of the development and transmission of cultural knowledge. Young children are already attuned to the difference between ritualistic behavior and goal-directed behavior. Seeing two people do the same

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thing at the same time is a strong indication that the specific form of the activity, the exact way in which it is performed, is regulated by convention.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/09/130919122219.htm>

People who are better able to move to a beat show more consistent brain responses to speech than those with less rhythm, according to a study published in the Journal of Neuroscience, suggesting that musical training could possibly sharpen the brain's response to language. Across a population of adolescents, the more accurate they were at tapping along to the beat, the more consistent their brains' response to the 'da' syllable was. Previous studies show a link between reading ability and beat-keeping ability as well as reading ability and the consistency of the brain's response to sound.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/09/130917181103.htm>

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