

Good afternoon, my name is Carys Goshawk and my student number is; 2310527.

Today I will be discussing being bilingual and multilingualism.

Firstly - benefits behind it

Secondly, the effects of multilingualism on a child's brain development

finally, Welsh as an additional language and effective frameworks

To conclude, linking effective frameworks and programmes in Wales.

Benefits;

social, psychological, lifestyle and health benefits.

language from birth, learn through a school setting or simply learn it later on in life – this new skill can provide many advantages

NCELA (2020) – delaying age – related cognitive decline, lead to an increased level of creativity and has the potential to raise occupational and earning potential.

- understanding of the cultures that surround you and helps promote global awareness.

introducing a second or third language to a child too early will produce confusion & have no benefit - According to Bialyston, Craik & Luk (2012)

Petitto et al., (2012) that young babies, infants and small children that hear two or more languages spoken and ability to differentiate the two without being confused.

Donald Woods Winnicott, a pioneering figure in psychoanalysis – who made a contribution to the importance of language – that diverged from the Freudian theory (Abram, 2008).

Winnicott's theory evolved from observing dialogue with concurrent Kleinian developments – which is a theory focused on the relationship between the mother and infant – rather than the father and infant.

Siencyn (2019) the development through the Welsh medium has been incredibly successful.

Cohen (1991) school attendance for 3 year olds in 1901 - 43% of children in Wales were registered to a school.

informal settings were being introduced into schools – Montessori and Steiner movement.

-awareness of how important the element of play is and it allowed parents and educators to have an understanding of the importance of play in order to learn (Siencyn, 2019)

In 1997, the nursery education became an area of concern throughout the UK Government.

Following this, a change occurred for children ages 3-7 years in which the Minister of Education published “Y Wlad sy’n Dysgu” (The Learning Country – (WAG, 2001).

- known as the Foundation Phase which is heavily based on learning through play.

Talk about the task previously done in video – song

Cultural diversity and well-being were then introduced by 2007. In addition to this, the Welsh Language was made to be a statutory right to all children in the Foundation Phase (Welsh Assembly Government, 2001). This then extended a helping hand for all children to be bilingual.

Brain Development;

Jerome Bruner (1985), a psychologist who contributed to our general understanding of cognitive development.

Learnt from the world around them

how important languages is in their development.

built upon Chomsky’s concept of the Language Acquisition Device.

Bruner – children have determination to learn new languages, however interaction is a key role in the learning process.

three main modes of representation:

Enactive Mode: Learning through play and direct action

Iconic Mode: showing knowledge through imagery

Or Symbolic Mode: Using symbols (such as language) to show an understanding.

Unlike Piaget’s theory, which is laid out into strict stage of ages – Bruner believed that these could be brought to the child at any age and translate to one another. (Bruner, 1985).

– According to Kroll, Dussias, Bice & Perrotti (2015) the multilingual speaker allows us to understand how being bilingual shapes the mind and brain.

brain has only evolved to speak one language, evidence argues that two or more languages are able to exist in the same brain network

- speed of conversation is outweighed by the fact of being able to keep the both languages at the forefront of your mind & being able to use the intended language, naturally – without having to make a mistake (Kroll, Dussias, Bogulski & Valdes- Kroff (2012).
- Bialystok, Craik & Luk (2012) support this by stating that the ability to carry these languages and to use as and when, helps enhance the ability to switch from task to task & are able to ignore irrelevant information.
- Multilingualism helps children to learn by stimulating brain development. Children are able to think about their ideas and thoughts in one (or two) more languages. According to National Literacy Trust (2022) it allows children to exercise their memory by being able to switch their attention to something else while working on a current task.
- Being multilingual is beneficial in helping to engage different regions of the brain. This, in turn allows cognitive flexibility & allows the brain to adapt (Vera, 2023).
- According to Vera (2023) previous studies have shown the individuals who are multilingual show signs of improved memory retention and problem solving skills.
- As previously stated, being multilingual has shown to okay a big part with improved memory function, according to Vera (2023).
- Vera (2023) continues to explain that in order to learn or use a language – you must be able to memorize vocabulary, remember grammar rules & pronunciation patterns. As this back & forth of switching languages is a constant mental exercise, it allows the individual to retain new & a lot of information. Research has shown that the use of multiple languages can potentially delay the onset of cognitive decline.
- However, Hack (2019) argues that multilingualism does not delay the onset of neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's or dementia. Although, people who speak four or more languages, are less likely to develop these disorders – by a significant amount.

Divergent Thinking –

The testing of creativity in children has been thoroughly assessed, in various ways (Plucker & Makel, 2019) .

A commonly used test is 'The Torrance Test of Creative Thinking or TTCT (Kim,2011; Torrance, 1966).

The testing requires individuals to create ideas that have been generated in response to a prompt -

idealistic tasks – sharing ways for different uses of an object.

Figural tasks – sharing definitions of polysemous words, for example; “play” meaning “activity” or a theatrical performance.

And motor tasks – a way in which you could move around a room.

also affect creativity, being bilingual has been shown to help improve executive functions that have been improved through switching between languages (Bialystok, 2015) divergent thinking has become parallel with the executive functions –

people who are bilingual may show more signs of being creative due to their life experiences (Ritter, et al., 2012 - multiple cultures or moving between countries.

Adesope et al., (2010) multicultural experiences help enhance

However – Change et al.,(2014) difference in cultural experiences help push potential differences in

Welsh Additional Language;

There are many families within welsh education that are primarily English speakers. When attending a welsh school –many challenges you may encounter.

In welsh – medium schools, classes are almost always conducted through the welsh language.

The Welsh language has its own pronunciation, expressions

Participating in social activities and creating friendships may be a hard task to do if most students social or communicate in Welsh.

‘Sgorio Sydyn!’ is an easy, fun way or learning new terminology in the welsh language. It is a quick paced game that will help gather little snippets of information that will be of help in the future.

Conclusion –

Early Years Wales (no date) have a programme - Cydweith Cymraeg. This framework allows children to learn the welsh language with primarily English speaking families – in a fun way!

These sessions consist of songs, stories and games (of which all are themed). They’re main objective is for the children to enjoy while learning a new skill.

To conclude, multilingualism is defined as the ability to speak 1 or more languages. It has proved to be challenging when there is a difference in age. It has become clear that

the use of languages is a significant stepping stone in cognitive development. Whether you are bilingual or multilingual – language and communication play an important role. It is a significant part in shaping all of our minds, cultures and identities.

Thankyou for listening, are there any questions?