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Why it's never too early to learn a language

Studies suggest that babies as young as two years old can benefit from learning a second language. Sceptical? Aurore Robinot, Centre Director of Blossom Mudon, explains the benefits of language immersion in early years education

The early years are crucial

It's hard to believe, but the younger your child is when they start learning a new language, the better. Many parents who speak multiple languages speak only one to their baby, because they don't want to overwhelm them. This is a mistake. The first years of a baby's life are the busiest year for the brain. Even though they're not talking, they're learning, making connections and absorbing information. I would say from birth to five years old are the optimal years for learning a new language. For another thing, they'll have a better grasp of accents.

Language immersion is an effective method

It's helpful for children to learn languages by hearing them as often as possible, so practice at home. In our Blossom immersion programme, we devote the first half of the day to teaching the children a second

language, either French or Arabic.

We welcome the children to class, sing songs, and learn letters, shapes, numbers and colours, all in a second language. For the children, there's no effort. They're just having fun. For new students, we translate for the first few days but they catch on very quickly.

Early years language study has a positive impact on children's home life

We've received very positive feedback from the parents of children who are enrolled in our programme, especially when the parents themselves are from two different backgrounds. One child who has a Taiwanese mom and a French dad never tried to speak French before the programme, but

we've heard that he's been chatting to his grandparents in France. It's a cause close to my heart too – my own daughter is on the programme, and she says words to me in English, French and Arabic.

Learning languages sets you up for a brighter future

Studies suggest that children who are bilingual also do well when it comes to literacy, development and problem solving skills at school. In the long term, the workplace is going to become increasingly competitive, and being bilingual can give you an advantage over the competition. Not to mention the benefits when you travel!

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Blossom Nurseries have five centres throughout the UAE and are accepting registrations now. For more information, to arrange a visit or to reserve your place call 055 NURSERY now or visit www.theblossomnursery.com