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Early exposure to two languages
causes language delay and
language confusion.



Brain and Language Laboratory for Neuroimaging

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- ▶ Decades of research have shown that early exposure to two languages does not cause language delay and language confusion. BL2 and VL2 Center findings have uncovered strong evidence for a critical period of development in which early exposure to bilingualism is a key predictor of language, reading, literacy success, and advantages in select neuro-cognitive functions.
- ▶ The brain gains enormous benefits from early exposure to two languages. Early-exposed bilingual language learners show language processing and reading enhancements in each of their two languages, and stronger cognitive flexibility, compared to monolingual peers. These powerful language and reading advantages continue across the lifespan. Thus, infancy and early childhood are the best times of life to be exposed to two languages.
- ▶ Deaf children exposed to a signed language and a spoken language (such as English) have been shown to be indeed “bilingual children” and receive all such bilingual advantages!

Implications: Parents and educators can be confident in the benefits of learning and using multiple languages as early as possible with all children. With deaf infants, ASL-English bilingual language learning launches infants on the path to becoming healthy bilinguals with strong English skills.