



Bilingual Options

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Snippets for Bilingual Families Issue 2017 / 1

Subscription: [info\[at\]bilingualoptions.com.au](mailto:info[at]bilingualoptions.com.au)

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Casual German teacher needed (VIC)

We are two German learning groups (bilingual children, Prep – grade 2, grade 3-6), who meet once a week for 1.5 hours at the Diamond Valley library in Greensborough. Unfortunately, both teachers have other commitments for next year and we would like to find two experienced teachers, who are fluent in German and able to teach the children how to converse, read and write German in a fun way. We need somebody from term 1 (beginning of February 2017) onwards. The children and the parents are a fantastic team and it would be wonderful if we could continue the learning next year.

Please contact Katja Schoenfelder (k.schoenfelder@yahoo.com.au) if you have any questions, any interest or pass on this message to anyone who can help us. Thank you very much.



Melbourne Meetup for Mums (and Dads) who speak Spanish

Hola mamitas:

This group is for mums, mainly with a spanish speaking background or anyone who would like to teach their children Spanish. Let's get together for affordable activities in Melbourne, once or twice a month. **Dads are welcome too** ☺ Follow us on instagram @latinmumsinmelbourne

<https://www.meetup.com/Melbourne-Moms-Meetup-Mums-that-speak-Spanish/?gj=ej1c>



Bilingual storytimes 2017

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Story times in local libraries are free of charge and may be a terrific way to meet other families who speak the same language. Not all libraries have published their bilingual story times for this year yet. Thus there may be more in the next issue. Apart from your children hearing your language being spoken by other people, this may also be an excellent opportunity for you to make contact with other families who speak the same LOTE as you do. I also whole heartedly recommend story times in English, which all libraries run. Librarians are very skilled in sharing books with children, and we can learn a lot from them.

Arabic:

- *The Age Library* (VIC); every Wednesday at 11:00 am in the Children's Area of the Library. LOCATION: The Age Library, 1093 Pascoe Vale Road, Broadmeadows; PHONE: 9356 6900

Assyrian

- *The Age Library*: every Thursday at 1pm in the Children's Area of the Library. LOCATION: 1093 Pascoe Vale Road, Broadmeadows VIC; PHONE: 9356 6900
- *Craigieburn Library*: every Friday at 1pm. LOCATION: Craigieburn Library 59 Craigieburn Rd Craigieburn VIC; PHONE: 9356 6980

Bengali

- *Central West Shopping Centre*, 65-67 Ashley St, Braybrook VIC 3019. Held every 2nd Monday Mondays from 11:00 to 11:45am, starting 27 February (except school holidays) This is a chance to meet other families with young children and learn new ways to help your child to develop language skills. Maribyrnong City Council's Bicultural Team are also available at these sessions to assist you with information on local children's services and supports, including playgroups, Maternal and Child Health and Central Registration for Kindergarten. For more information on Bilingual Story Time or Children's Services contact the Maribyrnong Early Years Team on 9688 0200. If you need assistance with translation we will arrange for an interpreter over the telephone. Please call the Telephone Interpreting Service (TIS) on 131 450 and ask the interpreter to call Maribyrnong City Council on 9688 0200 on your behalf. This is a FREE service.

Chinese (sorry, *which* I did not understand or didn't say)

- Sam Merrifield Library, 762 Mt Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds, 3039 Phone: 8325 1950 One time only during Cultural Diversity week: Monday 20 March, 10.30am
- *Ivanhoe Library*, 255 Upper Heidelberg Rd Ivanhoe VIC . Second Thursday of the month 10.00am–10.30am. Sessions include rhymes, finger plays, songs and stories. PHONE 9497 5780
- *Watsonia Library*, Ibbotson St , Watsonia VIC Selected Mondays 10.00am-10.30am. Dates currently advertised: March 13 & 27. Please enquire directly if you are interested in sessions beyond those dates. Sessions include rhymes, finger plays, songs and stories. PHONE 9435 2397

Farsi

- *Lalor Library*, May Rd Lalor VIC. On selected Tuesdays from 2-3pm. Currently only March 7 and June 6 are advertised. If you'd like this to become a regular affair, it may be advisable to express your interest by attending this session. PHONE 9465 2353

French

- *Niddrie Library* (VIC), 483 Keilor Road, Niddrie, 3042 Phone: 8325 1925. One time during Cultural Diversity Week, Tuesday 21 March, 10.30am
- *Eltham Library*, Panther Place, Eltham VIC. First Monday of the month 11.00am–11:30am. Sessions include rhymes, finger plays, songs and stories. PHONE 9439 9266
- *Ivanhoe Library*, 255 Upper Heidelberg Rd Ivanhoe VIC . First Thursday of the month 10.00am–10.30am. Sessions include rhymes, finger plays, songs and stories. PHONE 9497 5780

German

- *Eltham Library*, Panther Place, Eltham VIC. Fourth Wednesday of the month 11.15am–11:45am. Sessions include rhymes, finger plays, songs and stories. PHONE 9439 9266

Greek

- *Coburg Library*, Cnr Victoria and Louisa Sts, Coburg 3058 ; ph: 9353 4000. A fun filled session

with stories in Greek and activities suitable for preschool children is held at 5.30 pm the last Monday of each month, except for April when it will be held on the 18th. No booking required.

- *Oakleigh Library* (VIC) 148 Drummond St, Oakleigh, VIC. Every Monday (in school terms only) at 10.30am to 11.15am. Not held during school holidays. PHONR: 9563 4138

Hindi

- *Central West Shopping Centre*, 65-67 Ashley St, Braybrook VIC 3019. Held every 2nd Monday Mondays from 11:00 to 11:45am, starting 20 February (except school holidays) This is a chance to meet other families with young children and learn new ways to help your child to develop language skills. Maribyrnong City Council's Bicultural Team are also available at these sessions to assist you with information on local children's services and supports, including playgroups, Maternal and Child Health and Central Registration for Kindergarten. For more information on Bilingual Story Time or Children's Services contact the Maribyrnong Early Years Team on 9688 0200. If you need assistance with translation we will arrange for an interpreter over the telephone. Please call the Telephone Interpreting Service (TIS) on 131 450 and ask the interpreter to call Maribyrnong City Council on 9688 0200 on your behalf. This is a FREE service.

Italian

- *Avondale Heights Library and Learning Centre* (VIC), 69-79 Military Road, Avondale Heights, 3034 Phone: 8325 1940. One time during Cultural Diversity Week, Wednesday 22 March, at 10.30am.

- *Coburg Library*, Cnr Victoria and Louisa Sts, Coburg 3058 ; A fun filled session with stories in Italian and activities suitable for preschool children is held at 10.30am the 1st Tuesday of each month, except for November when it will be held on the 2nd Tuesday. Bookings are not required. PHONE: 9353 4000.

- *Clayton Library* (VIC), Cooke Street, Clayton VIC; On the following Wednesdays. from 10.30am to 11.30am: 15 & 29 March, 26 April, 10 & 24 May, 7 & 21 June, 19 July, 16 & 30 August, 13 September, 18 October and 1 & 15 & 29 November 2017. Not held in school holidays.

- *Ivanhoe Library*, 255 Upper Heidelberg Rd Ivanhoe VIC . On the 3rd Thursday of each month from 10.00am–10.30am. Sessions include rhymes, finger plays, songs and stories. PHONE: 9497 5780

- *Lalor Library*, May Rd Lalor VIC. On selected Fridays from 12.00am-12.30pm. Currently only 12 May is advertised. If you'd like this to become a regular affair, it may be advisable to express your interest by attending this session. Sessions include rhymes, finger plays, songs and stories. PHONE 9465 2353

- *Mill Park Library*, 394 Plenty Road Mill Park 3082 VIC. 2nd Wednesday of the month 10.45am – 11.15am. Sessions include rhymes, finger plays, songs and stories. PHONE 9437 8189

Japanese

- *Watsonia Library*, Ibbotson St , Watsonia VIC Every Friday 10.30am-11:00am. The website does not exclude school holidays for this one, but you may want to confirm this Sessions include rhymes, finger plays, songs and stories. PHONE 9435 2397

Mandarin

- *Balwyn Library*, 336 Whitehorse Road Balwyn VIC: Children of all ages are welcome Join us at the Balwyn Library for stories and songs in Mandarin and English. Bookings not required. Friday 24 Feb, 24 March, 21 April, 26 May, 23 June, (remaining months not advertised yet), always from 11am-11:45am. For more information PHONE: 9278 4644

- *Deer Park Library*, Cnr Neale & Station Roads Deer Park VIC. Stories, songs and rhymes for parents and children aged 0 to five in Mandarin/English. Every Wednesday from 11:15–11:45am. PHONE: 9249 4660

- *Clayton Library* (VIC), Cooke Street, Clayton VIC; On the following Wednesdays at 10.30am to 11.15am: 8 & 22 February, 8 & 22 March, 26 April, 10 & 24 May, 14 & 28 June, 12 & 26 July, 9 & 23 August, 13 September, 11 & 25 October and 8 & 22 November 2017. Not held in school holidays. PHONE: 9541 3120

- *Mount Waverley Library* (VIC), 41 Miller Cres. Mount Waverley VIC; On the following Thursdays from 10.30am to 11.15am: 16 February, 16 March, 20 April, 18 May, 15 June, 20 July, 17 August, 21 September, 19 October and 16 November 2017. Not held in school holidays. PHONE: 9807 5022
- *Glen Waverley Library*, 112 Kingsway, Glen Waverley VIC. On the following Wednesdays from 10.30am to 11.15am. Wednesdays 1 March, 3 May, 7 June, 2 August, 6 September, 1 November 2016. Not held in school holidays. PHONE: 9560 1655
- *Central West Shopping Centre*, 65-67 Ashley St, Braybrook VIC 3019. Held every 2nd Wednesday from 11:00 to 11:45am, starting 22 February (except school holidays) This is a chance to meet other families with young children and learn new ways to help your child to develop language skills. Maribyrnong City Council's Bicultural Team are also available at these sessions to assist you with information on local children's services and supports, including playgroups, Maternal and Child Health and Central Registration for Kindergarten. For more information on Bilingual Story Time or Children's Services contact the Maribyrnong Early Years Team on 9688 0200. If you need assistance with translation we will arrange for an interpreter over the telephone. Please call the Telephone Interpreting Service (TIS) on 131 450 and ask the interpreter to call Maribyrnong City Council on 9688 0200 on your behalf. This is a FREE service.

Sinhalese

- *Craigieburn Library*, 75-95 Central Park Avenue Craigieburn VIC; every Monday at 11am. PHONE: 9356 6980

Spanish

- *Flemington Library* (VIC), 313 Racecourse Road, Flemington, 3031 Phone: 8325 1975. One time during Cultural Diversity Week, Friday 24 March, 10.30am

Turkish

- *The Age Library* in Broadmeadows; every Monday at 11:00am in the Children's Area of the Library. LOCATION: 1093 Pascoe Vale Road, Broadmeadows VIC; PHONE: 9356 6900

Vietnamese

- *Ascot Vale Library* (VIC), 165 Union Road Ascot Vale, 3032 Phone: 8325 1990. One time during Cultural Diversity Week, Thursday 23 March, 10.30am
- *St Albans Library*, 71A Alfrieda St, St Albans VIC. Stories, songs and rhymes for parents and children aged 0 to five in Vietnamese/English. Every Monday from 11:15–11:45am. PHONE: 9249 4650
- *Sunshine Library*, McCracken St, Sunshine VIC. Stories, songs and rhymes for parents and children aged 0 to five in Vietnamese/English. Every Thursday from 11:00–11:30am. PHONE: 9249 4660
- *Central West Shopping Centre*, 65-67 Ashley St, Braybrook VIC 3019. Held every 2nd Wednesday from 11:00 to 11:45am, starting 1 March (except school holidays) This is a chance to meet other families with young children and learn new ways to help your child to develop language skills. Maribyrnong City Council's Bicultural Team are also available at these sessions to assist you with information on local children's services and supports, including playgroups, Maternal and Child Health and Central Registration for Kindergarten. For more information on Bilingual Story Time or Children's Services contact the Maribyrnong Early Years Team on 9688 0200. If you need assistance with translation we will arrange for an interpreter over the telephone. Please call the Telephone Interpreting Service (TIS) on 131 450 and ask the interpreter to call Maribyrnong City Council on 9688 0200 on your behalf. This is a FREE service.
- *Lalor Library*, May Rd Lalor VIC. On selected Wednesdays from 12.00am-12.30pm. Currently only 12 April is advertised. If you'd like this to become a regular affair, it may be advisable to express your interest by attending this session. PHONE 9465 2353



Promote your language through playful games and activities

At some point I found this beautiful article with lots of suggestions on how to help your little children acquire your language.

<http://bilingualmonkeys.com/promote-the-minority-language-with-small-bilingual-children-through-playful-games-and-activities/>

There is heaps more interesting stuff on that website.



12 things parents raising bilingual children need to know

I didn't write that, but it sounds like I did. Thank you, Rita Rosenback.

1 – It doesn't happen by magic

Children do not become bilingual “by magic”. There is a persistent myth claiming that “children are like sponges when it comes to language” and that they will learn all languages they hear regularly – this is simply not true. Yes, in the right circumstances children will naturally grow up to acquire the family languages, but this cannot be taken for granted.

2 – You need a plan

To be in with the best chance of succeeding in bringing up bilingual children, you need to [plan ahead](#). How fluent do you want your children to be? What about reading and writing? Who speaks what and when? Discuss this in the family and agree on the goals.

3 – Consistency is crucial

Once you have your plan, you need to commit to it as a family and [stay consistent](#) in your language use. Yes, children can certainly become bilingual if parents mix their languages with them, but the risk that they will at some point prefer to stick to the majority language is far greater if they have become used to the minority language parent easily switching to the majority language.

4 – You will have to pay attention to exposure times

Once you have your plan, you need to look into how much exposure your children get to each language. There is a general recommendation (there is, however, no scientific proof for this) that children should be exposed to a language at least thirty percent of their waking time to naturally become bilingual. This should however only be taken as a guidance – depending on the type of exposure, children might need more or less time to acquire a language.

5 – You will have to invest some extra time (and sometimes maybe a bit of money)

You will need to find the time talk a lot, to do the [reading](#) and to find [resources](#) to help your children learn the language. You might find that you need to use your holidays to make a trip to boost your children's motivation to speak the language.

6 – There will be doubters

Not everyone will agree with you that it is a good idea to raise your children to speak all family languages. There will be those who tell you that there is no point, that it is [not going to work](#). Others will think that you are [expecting too much](#) of your children, and some will say that you are [confusing your children](#) with all these languages. Ignore these doubters, but also, forgive them, as they do not know what they are talking about.

7 – Don't listen to bad advice

There might be times when a professional tells you to [stop speaking a certain language](#) to your children. If in doubt with regards to your child's language development – speak to a specialist who is experienced in dealing with bilingual children.

8 – It is not always easy

There will be all sorts of [challenges](#) along your family's multilingual journey – apart from the doubters and the ill-informed “experts” there will be more mundane obstacles: will you be able to

stick to your plan when “life happens” and offers its surprises in form of changed family circumstances, moves, career progressions, influence from others and so on? When it feels difficult, ask for advice and help.

9 – Your child might answer you in the “wrong” language

This one usually hits the minority language parent. You feel that you have done everything right and stayed consistent, and still your darling comes home from school one day and [no longer answers you in your language](#). You will feel disappointed and disheartened if this happens, but it is crucial that you don't give up at this point, and that you continue to stay consistent and if possible, also increase the exposure time.

10 – Your children will gain an array of benefits by becoming bilingual

If you are still in doubt about whether to bring up your children to become bilinguals or not, read about all the [great benefits](#) your children will gain if you do decide to do it. We all want what is best for our children, so why wouldn't you support yours to have the wonderful gift of speaking more than one language?

11 – You will never regret it

I can assure you, you will not regret your decision to stick with it and make sure that your children grow up to speak all the family languages. On the other hand, I have heard several parents who are sad that they gave up on passing on their languages – not to mention the many adults expressing their disappointment that they were [not taught a language](#) their mother or father knew when they were small.

12 – You will be proud

You will be immensely proud when your children for the first time speak to their grandparents or other relatives in “their” language. I can assure you that the feeling is absolutely wonderful. Not only will you be proud, so will your children and the rest of your family. You will also be a great role model to other families.

This article can be found translated into a range of languages:

multilingualparenting.com/2014/02/26/12-things-parents-raising-bilingual-children-need-to-know/



As always, enjoy the children in your life.

The more you do and the more you play with them, the more they learn from you.

Susanne