

How do babies learn two languages at once?

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Any adult who has attempted to learn a foreign language can attest to how difficult and confusing it can be. So when a 3-year old growing up in a bilingual household inserts Spanish words into his English sentences, conventional wisdom assumes that he is confusing the two languages.

Research shows that [this is not the case](#).

In fact, early childhood is the best possible time [to learn a second language](#). Children who experience two languages from birth typically become native speakers of both, while adults often struggle with second language learning and [rarely attain native-like fluency](#).

But the question remains: Is it confusing for babies to learn two languages simultaneously?

Research shows babies begin to learn language sounds before they're even born. In the womb, a mother's voice is [one of the most prominent sounds](#) an unborn baby hears. By the time they're born, newborns can not only tell the difference between their [mother's language and another language](#), but also show a capability of distinguishing between languages.

Language learning depends on the processing of sounds. All the world's languages put together comprise about 800 or so sounds. Each language uses only about 40 language sounds, or "phonemes," which distinguish one language from another.

Read full, original post: [Why Baby Brains Can Learn Two Languages at Same Time](#)