

## Recommended Reading for Parents Raising Children Bilingually

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### INTRODUCTORY WORKS

*The Bilingual Experience: A Book for Parents*, by Eveline de Jong, Cambridge University Press, 1986.

An introductory work written by a Dutch woman who was raising her children bilingually in England and began interviewing other two-language families. The book consists mainly of insights the author gleaned from her interviews. Since de Jong is not a linguist, she generally dispenses with theory and deals with a range of practical and emotional concerns without ever getting preachy.

*Language Strategies for Bilingual Families: The One-Parent-One-Language*, by Suzanne Barron-Hauwaert, Cambridge University Press, 2011.

A comprehensive introduction to the OPOL approach, in which each parent speaks a different language to the children. Based on numerous cases studies, this book covers a range of issues including the first three years, how to deal with attitudes from those outside the family and interaction in two languages.

*A Parents' and Teachers' Guide to Bilingualism*, by Colin Baker, Multilingual Matters, 2014. (4<sup>th</sup> Ed.).

Baker, who has also written many academic

books on bilingualism, here answers most of the questions that the parent of a potentially bilingual child would want to ask. He deals supportively with issues of bilingualism and child development, intelligence, reading, schooling and even what the neighbours might think. The book is in question--and--answer form so you can dip in or read it cover to cover.

*Growing up with Two Languages: A Practical Guide for the Bilingual Family*, by Una Cunningham, Multilingual Matters, 2011.

This is really a handbook to help parents decide whether or not to try to raise their children bilingually, how high they should set their sights and how they should go about the task if they decide they want to try. Cunningham, as a linguist specialising in bilingualism, is able to present a wide range of research, but always bears her audience (parents) in mind, keeping explanations simple and to the point. Based on interviews with parents.

### FURTHER READING

*Bilingualism: Basic Principles*, by Hugo Baetens Beardsmore, Multilingual Matters, 1986.

Designed for use as a college textbook on the subject. Though not an exciting read, it is a useful

introduction to a number of basic problems and concepts related to bilingualism.

*Bilingual Children: From Birth to Teens*, by George Saunders, Multilingual Matters, 1988.

This is an updated and expanded version of the first guidebook written to help parents raise their children bilingually. Saunders is an Australian professor of German who raised his sons bilingually by insisting on speaking only German to them, even though Saunders himself is not a native speaker. Though the author does refer to other research, much of this work focuses on the development of his own children's bilinguality.

*Studies in Japanese Bilingualism*, edited by Mary Goebel Noguchi and Sandra Fotos, Multilingual Matters, 2001.

So, you thought Japan was a monolingual country? This book presents a wide range of research on different bilingual groups in Japan: Okinawans, users of English, international families, Koreans, Ainu, Chinese and returnees.

## IN JAPANESE

*Bairingarū: Sono jitsuzou to mondaiten*, by Yamamoto Masayo, Taishukan Shoten, 1991.

This work consists of three parts: a basic introduction to bilingualism, a case study of the author's daughter, who is an English--Japanese bilingual, and a general explanation of bilingualism in Japan, including the author's research on the children of international marriages.

*Nihon no bairingarizumu*, edited by John C. Maher and Yashiro Kyoko, Kenkyusha, 1991.

Following a general introduction to bilingualism, papers explore a number of different types of 'bilingualism' in Japan: English in the mass media and as an international scientific language, the bilingualism of returnees (*kikokushijo*), two--language families, foreign residents (including Koreans), and immigrants, and attempts at revival of the Ainu language.

## NEWSLETTERS

*Bilingual Japan*, published by JALT's Bilingualism Special Interest Group (SIG). Contact: Lance Stilp [lancestilp at gmail.com] or see the Bilingualism SIG website

[www.bsig.org](http://www.bsig.org)

A regular newsletter featuring views and information about bilingualism in Japan. Features include case studies, book reviews, a research forum, bilingualism in the news and columns about bilingual child-raising and children's books.

*The Bilingual Family Newsletter*

<http://www.bilingualfamilynewsletter.com/archives.php>

Sadly, this newsletter is no longer published, but there is an archive of its 27 years of advice freely available at the above URL.

## Bilingualism SIG Monographs

<https://www.bsig.org/monographs>

The Bilingualism SIG offers 18 monographs about various aspects of bilingualism in Japan.