

Mijn naam is ...

Ang pangalan ko ay...

Меня зовут...

My name is...

Mon nom est...

# Growing up multilingual

Nama saya...

我的名字是

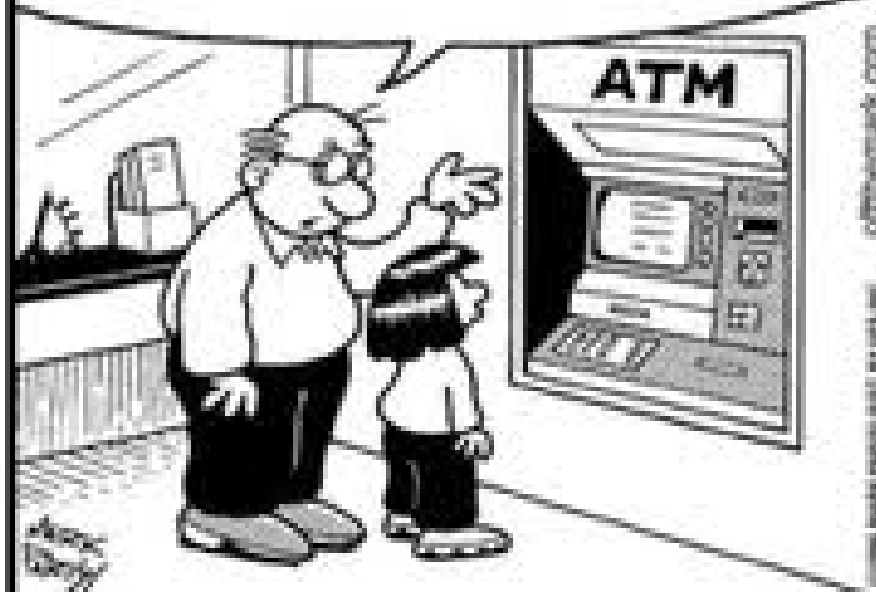
मेरा नाम है

To óνομά μου είναι...

**off the mark**.com

by Mark Parisi

I SELECTED "SPANISH." NOW SEE  
IF YOU CAN FIGURE OUT HOW TO  
WITHDRAW YOUR ALLOWANCE...



MOTIVATING YOUR KID TO  
LEARN A SECOND LANGUAGE

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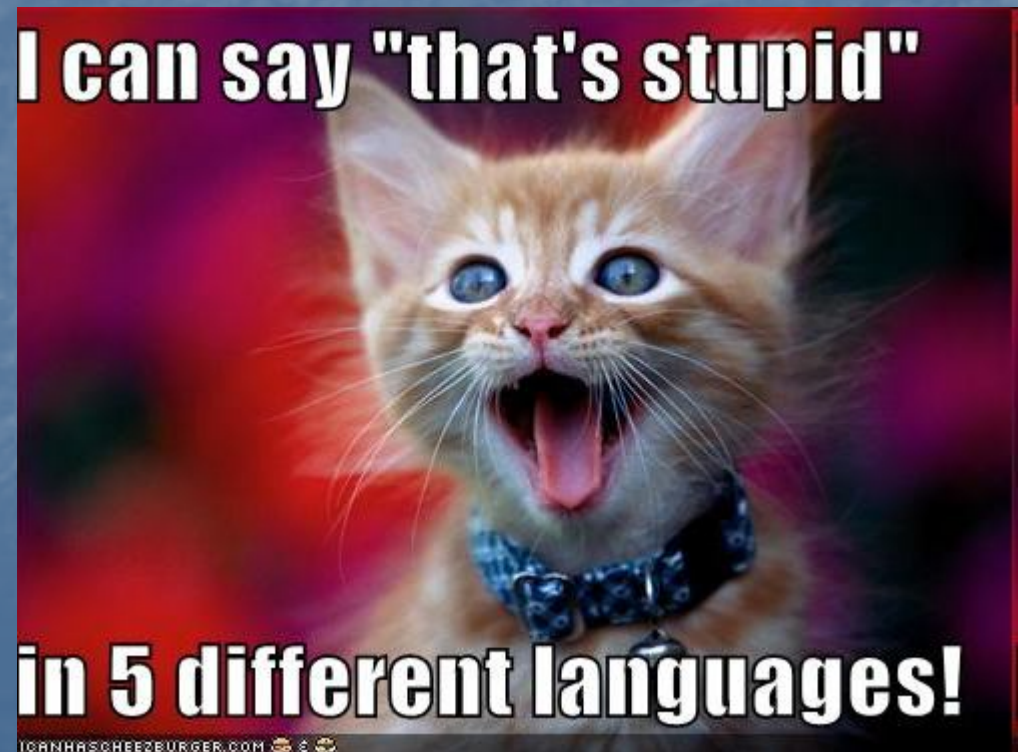
# Multi/Bi-lingualism

## Fears & concerns

- “Nowhere in the specialist literature are any grounds for fears on this count to be found **as long as the family background is stable, relaxed and positive towards the languages involved.**”

# Multi/Bi-lingual benefits

- Cognitive
- Character
- Curriculum
- Communicative
- Cultural
- Employment



Mirror, mirror on the wall – who's the fastest language learner of all?



- Children (especially those in early years of school) do not 'pick-up' language effortlessly.
- Given good support and a good learning environment older children can learn language even quicker than younger children.

# Language learning and educational issues

- Where do I expect my child to continue their education?



# How will language learning impact academic development?

- BICS (conversational) vs CALP (academic)
- Maintaining academic language in L1 while schooling in L2



# How long does it take to learn a language?

- Need for long term planning
- Balance the benefits against discomfort, trauma and academic delay

# What kind of instruction is necessary for effective language learning?

- Quality
- Well supported
- Enjoyable

# How will the language learning affect my child emotionally?

- For children language learning is a social endeavour
- Social endeavours affect self-esteem
- Inability to represent themselves in L2
- Don't overload children

# Two further points

- Use of the mother tongue at home does NOT hinder second language learning but actually helps!

[www.iteachilearn.com/cummins/mother.htm](http://www.iteachilearn.com/cummins/mother.htm)

- Beware of labelling children with 'learning disabilities' when reality is language issues.

## Case Study

The Jansen family have just arrived on the field from The Netherlands with two children – one in Year 1 and the other in Year 2 of high school. Their children already speak some English and the family wants to put them in the local international school. However, the school warns that the children might be at risk of graduating without either sufficient English or sufficient Dutch to do university level work. The Jansens wonder how their children can learn English and the local language, while still maintaining their Dutch language skills.

# Task

- Write a document with guiding principles regarding language learning and educational options for missionaries with children going out from your church/organisation.

A presentation by Kathy Harris

International Teams  
Europe Regional Office  
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