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Enjoy Learning a Foreign Language with your Children

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Enjoy Learning a Foreign Language with your Children.

What can be more rewarding for parents than smart children learning and having fun? Nothing at all. So this summer give your children the chance of learning a foreign language in a valuable and pleasant situation. You may think they already have a tough work learning and improving their English. That's true. But you can enhance your children's mental abilities training their mind in a foreign language at an early stage.

Many preeschoolers's parents teach their kids maths or science but seldom a foreign language. Most parents have unpleasant memories from studying a foreign language. All that grammar stuff, the boring readings and the stammering speech making them feel silly. All this unpleasantness comes from having studied the language when they were teenagers and reluctant to learn. Willingness and determination are absolutely necessary to learn a foreign language consciously but most teenagers don't want to use them in this direction.

This is not true of little children. They are unprejudiced and curious about the surrounding world. They have a prodigious capacity to capture any knowledge. They learn imitating, and that's basic to learn a foreign language. They work hard at enriching their mother tongue so, the readiness to work at language learning is still latent and easily recovered. Little children are not afraid of being laughed at. They feel free to make mistakes and, in return grown-ups and older kids consider this behavior all right. Little children also have an accurate ear and can easily repeat new sounds and intonations unaware of it. In my opinion, this is the most striking feature. They learn the language unconsciously.

My daughter is bilingual and she learnt the two languages when she was very little. One day when she was in first grade and the foreign language was taught at school she realized she already knew it so when she came home she asked me "Mommy, when did I learn French? My classmates don't know that language" She had learnt it unconsciously.

You may think she felt bad because she was different. Just the opposite. She became very popular. All her classmates used to stand in a circle around her asking her how you say this or that in French. She was a great help for her teacher who found her a source of motivation for the other children to learn a foreign language.

If you know two languages or more, you surely know what to do but if you're monolingual you still can do it. One of the easiest and most effective ways of learning a foreign language is using software. Why? Because in these programmes you find several important features you don't find in regular courses. The language is presented in situations, as in real life. The voices heard belonged to native speakers providing an excellent pronunciation model, and again, as in real life, a few people are speaking around the learner. This way children can interact with these foreign speaking characters while playing a game or doing an activity. Easy language must be presented at the beginning but increasing difficulties should be provided step by step.

Never focus your children's attention on the learning of language. Let them play the game, have fun and guess the meanings. Never translate into English. If necessary explain that's what it's said in such a situation (ex. Situation: making friends, how you greet your teacher.). To be successful you have to work through the material first. You can do it anyway you want, but when you work with your children try to do it as suggested before. They will start speaking the foreign language very soon.

But I still haven't told you the best. It's not necessary to use expensive teaching-the-foreign-language software. Look for children's games and activities in the foreign language. You and your children will do the rest.

. Accept this challenge right now. Take advantage of the free time summer vacation brings along a