

**Gaby (30) and Brian (44) have decided to educate their daughter (9 months) bilingually.**

**1. Does one of you continuously speak German to her and the other American? Or do you mix?**

We have decided to be consequent with the language acquisition. To our daughter I just speak German and my husband only English, to enable her to allocate the language to one person. Our friend's children do the same, – he is American she is French – , and it works perfect. It happens automatically that our daughter speaks English with her father and French with her mother. Additionally they speak German, because they grew up in Germany. The children speak all three languages perfectly.

**2. As parents – which language do you speak with each other?**

Because in the week my husband is back from work very late, our daughter spends most of the time with me and hears German only. We have decided to speak English when we time spend time together. Our daughter should feel at home in both languages. Because she is nine months old you can't predict which language she will prefer, or which one she will understand better, but the word Nein/No she realises already quite well.

**3. What is the benefit to educate Stella in two languages?**

Because our daughter is learning English from the beginning, she hopefully will accept it and use it as her mother tongue. Beside that, you never learn as efficient and quick as a child; a better moment to learn another language is hardly to be seen for our daughter. It is great, that the grandparents from father's side can communicate with her as well. They only speak English.

**4. Are you afraid of negative results?**

In our opinion it is puzzling for the child if one is not consequent in the language acquisition. You have to stand for your decision – if you are not certain or in doubt of the bilingual education, the child will obviously recognise it and will be insecure while speaking.



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# Multilingual Education





What means

### "double language acquisition?"

Starting by birth the child will be confronted with two or more languages simultaneously.



#### Method of "first double language acquisition":

- "One person – one language" is *the most effective method* for double language acquisition.

Preferably each parent speaks in its own mother tongue to the child.

- "Family language versus local neighbourhood language".

Within the family one language will be spoken, outside the language will be adapted to the local neighbourhood.

- Language diversification on need states.g

Dependent of the activity one language will be spoken.

#### There are different options how the parents communicate among themselves:

- one language will be the claimed as the family language

- anyone talks in his own language

- anyone talks in both languages

- the parents are talking to each other in a third language, but to the child respectively only in one

**If none of the parents is proficient in German as a mother tongue, the child has to get in contact with the German language as soon as possible!**

#### Possible Questions:

- *Will my child not overburdened if it has to learn two languages at the same time?*

No, because the child can learn more languages at the same time, when it gets in contact with the languages from the very beginning.

The language acquisition happens unconscious.

- *Will my child be able to separate languages?*

The merge between languages is normal and will disappear normally by itself.

- *Will my child suffer from speech disorders due multilingual education?*

No! Double language acquisition is no risk for language development!

