

Children Learning Chinese as a Home Language in an English-Dominant Society

Authors : Sinming Law

Abstract : Many Chinese families face many difficulties in maintaining their heritage language for their children in English-dominant societies. This article first looks at the losses from monolingualism and benefits of bilingualism. Then, it explores the common methods used today in teaching Chinese. We conclude that families and community play an indispensable role in their children's acquisition. For children to acquire adequate proficiency in the language, educators should inform families about this topic and partner with them. Families can indeed be active in the process. Hence, the article further describes a guide designed and written by the author to accommodate the needs of parents. It can be used as a model for future guides. Further, the article recommends effective media routes by which families can have access to similar guides.

Keywords : children learning Chinese, biliteracy and bilingual acquisition, family and community support, heritage language maintenance

Conference Title : ICBE 2016 : International Conference on Bilingual Education

Conference Location : London, United Kingdom

Conference Dates : August 25-26, 2016