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Should You Talk to Your Child in a Different Language?

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Follow In The Footsteps Of Ancient Engineers

Just too cute not to share



NoBiggie

Convert an old TV cabinet into a kids play kitchen.

http://www.ehow.com/info_12340191_before-after-turn-old-cabinet-kids-kitchen.html

In 1990, the South Dakota Legislature voted to celebrate Native American Day instead of Columbus Day. Learn about ways you can celebrate! <http://bit.ly/1e9gdJm>

Should You Talk to Your Child in a Different Language?

By [Claire Bowers](#) Wikimedia Commons

New parents face a lot of pressures. Until I became a parent myself, I didn't realize the sea of conflicting advice that besieges parents on everything from feeding strategies to whether you need a baby Jacuzzi.

One of the more important decisions is what language bilingual parents will speak to their child. It's natural to want the best for one's child, and also to draw on one's own childhood in

parenting, but what if you speak a second language less fluently, one that you learned as an adult? Is it worth speaking your less fluent second language to your kid?

A case study in making this decision comes from [a post by Jim Kling](#) on the *New York Times*' "Motherlode" blog about whether to speak to his daughter in Tagalog (his wife's first language) or in English (his own first language).

Kling ended up deciding that he should use English, and that second language speakers did harm to children's language acquisition. In coming to this conclusion, he drew on research on language development by people such as Erika Hoff. Hoff [compared](#) school test scores of Spanish-speaking immigrants to the USA who spoke Spanish to their children versus those who spoke English to them. While you might expect that the kids who spoke English at home would have higher test scores, that wasn't true. Instead, the children being raised bilingually did better.

Kling took away from that research that non-native speakers should not speak to their children in their non-native language, and that he was doing a disservice to his daughter by speaking to her in Tagalog rather than in English. He interpreted the findings as meaning that non-native speakers are poor role models for children learning two languages, because they use ungrammatical or unidiomatic phrases.

As a linguist, I took away a very different message. I interpreted Hoff's results as showing that the children who spoke English at home didn't get much of a boost from their parents, because they were already getting a great deal of English input from the wider community. That is, they were already learning English from their peers rather than primarily from their parents, and so the extra input of second language English didn't make much difference to their fluency. On the other hand, the Spanish group were getting most of their Spanish input from parents (and perhaps other close family), and were benefitting from growing up bilingual.

Why is mine the most plausible interpretation? Well, first of all, there's a lot of [research](#) showing that [being bilingual is good for the brain](#) in general, in everything from multi-tasking to later onset of Alzheimer's. And secondly, research in sociolinguistics tells us that children learn language from their peers, even from a very young age: NC State linguist [Walt Wolfram](#), for example, has shown that peers start being more important linguistic role models than parents at around the age of four. (Of course, this remains true throughout adolescence, as any parent trying to understand textspeak can tell you.) This is why even though my husband and I are Australian, our kids, growing up in Connecticut, will speak like Yankees—and why the kids in Hoff's study learned English from the surrounding community even when their parents spoke primarily Spanish to them.

But what about this idea that non-native speakers produce a lower quality of input than native speakers? It makes intuitive sense—we know we make grammatical mistakes in a second language, so why wouldn't children learn them?—but it's not supported by the evidence. In fact, kids who are exposed to early language from non-native speakers usually grow up to be full speakers of that language. For example, deaf children of hearing parents [benefit greatly](#) from early exposure to Sign Language from non-natively signing parents, and in fact end up almost as fluent as Deaf people who have Sign Language exposure from birth. Another striking example comes from Daryl Baldwin and David Costa's work on revitalizing the Native American

language [Myaamia](#), where children fluently use sounds and grammar that their parents, who learned the language as adults, still struggle with.

What most people don't know is that not only are kids really good at learning languages, but they also have skills that help them learn from non-native speakers. For one thing, they learn very quickly who are good language role models: They can tell whether you're a reliable speaker or whether your input should be taken with a grain of salt. Kids are also really good at extrapolating from the patterns they hear and filtering out noisy data, so even if you're not always conjugating your verbs correctly, they'll pick up on the general trend.

Top Comment

My husband and I both speak French reasonably well, but good Lord, neither of us wants the kids to learn it. How would we talk about things in front of them that we did not want them to understand? More... -Lizzie T.

[64 Comments Join In](#)

So it's not just about non-native vs native language input. The main thing children need is not so much a highly accurate linguistic role model, but rather several people to speak it with, and one strong way to do that is for the non-native speaker parent to speak the language too. Kling's daughter will learn English whether or not it's spoken at home. But by the whole family speaking Tagalog, he's providing a positive role model for multi-language use, as well as helping to create a supporting environment for Tagalog within the home and supporting his wife in using Tagalog with their child, especially as she grows older and starts being more influenced by her peers.

So, Jim, speak to your daughter in whatever language you want. You won't be doing her a disservice by speaking to her in both her languages. In fact, you may even be doing her a favor.

[Claire Bovern](#) is Associate Professor of linguistics and a Public Voices Fellow at Yale University. Her research centers around endangered languages.

On October 15, 1977, the Wells Colony was created. (PL 95-133 48 Stat. 984.WIOA

WIOA - WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2014

California Indian Manpower Consortium, Inc. in partnership with the US Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration

**Strengthening the Connection between Education, TANF and the Workforce
October 31, 2014 - 8:30 am - 12:00 noon Pala Casino Spa Resort - Pala, California**

Don't miss this opportunity to learn about the legislation, including what is new, what will stay the same in Section 166 for Indian and Native American Programs, participate in a process to share your comments and ways to improve Indian workforce programs, and to help develop recommendations for the process of implementation. Indian and Native American Grantee Concerns:

- ■ New Primary Indicators of performance without consultation
- ■ Proposed reporting system for INA grantees
- ■ Change in youth accountability measures and eligibility requirements
- ■ Participation in State Workforce Investment Boards
- ■ Funding Levels

PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE to sandrag@cimcinc.com or (916) 920-0285 by Tuesday, October 21, 2014.

CIMC, 738 North Market Boulevard, Sacramento, California 95834 | www.cimcinc.org | (800) 640-CIMC

For group lodging rates at the Pala Casino Spa Resort, contact CIMC at (916) 920-0285 or sandrag@cimcinc.com no later than Tuesday, October 21, 2014.

Kahara Hodges- Vocalist at ASU Wells Fargo Arena

Here I am singing at the ASU Women’s Basketball game today. It was Native Heritage Day, this was the 1st time I've sang the anthem in Navajo in public . The crowd loved it! A nice lady had tears in her eyes when she hugged and thanked me. It was a very special event.

World’s Oldest Artwork Discovered in Indonesia Alexander Forbes, October 9, 2014

A handprint found in Indonesia and believed to be at least 39,900 years old

Photo: Kinez Riza via Nature

A group of cave paintings discovered on the island of Sulawesi in Indonesia was created at least 40,000 years ago, [reports the journal Nature](#) in its October 8 edition. That likely makes the paintings the oldest artworks ever to be discovered.

The oldest of the newly-dated cave paintings is a silhouette of a hand, which appears to have been created by blowing red pigment over a hand placed against the cave wall’s surface. Using [uranium decay dating](#), the Indonesian research team working on the project determined that [the 10 millimeters or so](#) of calcite grown on top of the painting was at least 39,900 years old. The finding suggests that the painting underneath is therefore slightly older.

The researchers were also able to successfully date a painting of two animals, thought to be a species of “pig-deer.” The work is [estimated to be at least](#) 35,400–35,700 years old. If accurate, the dating would make the painting the earliest known surviving figurative representation made by humans.

Aside from the discovery’s intrigue from an archeological and scientific standpoint, it is also yet another blow to the view that art and culture, and the more advance cognitive capacity of the early Homo sapiens who produced it, was a European invention. Many Eurocentrist—and indeed some factions within the European political extreme-right—have held up discoveries of 35,000–40,000-year-old cave paintings in Spain’s El Castillo cave and France’s Chauvet cave as evidence of Europe’s cultural primacy.

“It allows us to move away from the view that Europe was special,” Australian archeologist and leader of the team Maxime Aubert told *Nature*. “There was some idea that early Europeans were more aware of themselves and their surroundings. Now we can say that’s not true.”

At the very least, the findings suggest that humans developed abstract cognitive abilities at approximately the same time worldwide. The El Castillo painting of a red disk dates to 40,800 years ago. The Chauvet painting of a rhinoceros dates to approximately 35,000 years ago.

Other archeologists suggest that the paintings point towards the existence of such abilities before our distant ancestors dispersed from Africa. That means many older cave paintings may still await discovery. “We can expect future discoveries of depictions of human hands, figurative art, and other forms of image-making dating to the earliest period of the global dispersal of our species,” Aubert’s team told the *New York Times*.



“Compared with Europe, Asia has seen little fieldwork, and new finds will keep on challenging what we think we know about human evolution,” added researcher Wil Roebroeks [when speaking to the AFP](#).

The newly-dated Indonesian cave paintings’ existence has been known for over 50 years. However, researchers had done little further work to

date them as they believed the region’s climate would have already caused anything over 10,000 years old to vanish.

http://news.artnet.com/art-world/worlds-oldest-artwork-discovered-in-indonesia-128042?utm_campaign=artnetnews&utm_source=100914daily&utm_medium=email

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### [Cave Paintings in Indonesia May Be Among the Oldest Known](#)

By JOHN NOBLE WILFORD

The paintings of hands and animals in seven limestone caves on Sulawesi had previously been dismissed as no more than 10,000 years old.

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### [The Nevada State Museum, Carson City earns grant for digitization, Navajo collection](#)

A project to care for, inventory, and digitize Navajo weavings and Southwestern ceramics at the Nevada State Museum in Carson City has earned a \$23,118 grant...  
carsonnow.org  
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## **GrantStation**

### **[John S. and James L. Knight Foundation: Knight Cities Challenge](#)**

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation's Knight Cities Challenge seeks new ideas from innovators for making the 26 Knight communities more vibrant places to live and work. Click above to learn more about the funding guidelines and application process.

### **[World Wildlife Fund – Hong Kong: Asian Waterbird Conservation Fund](#)**

The Asian Waterbird Conservation Fund, an initiative of the World Wildlife Fund-Hong Kong, supports projects on the ground in Asia that will lead to the conservation or protection of migratory waterbirds and their wetland habitats in the East Asian – Australasian Flyway. Click above to learn more about the funding guidelines and application process.

## ***National Funding***

Support for International Museum Collaborations

### **[American Alliance of Museums: Museums Connect](#)**

Museums Connect: Building Global Communities, an initiative of the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) and the United States Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, is designed to strengthen connections and cultural understanding between people in the United States and abroad through collaborative and innovative projects facilitated by museums. The program empowers museums to connect people in the U.S. with people abroad while at the same time strengthening ties between the museums and their communities. Projects addressing the following themes will receive additional consideration: Empowering Women and Girls, Environmental Sustainability, Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Strengthen Civil Society and Social Inclusion, and Youth Engagement and Leadership Development. Grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000 are available to partnerships consisting of at least one U.S. museum and at least one non-U.S. museum. U.S. and non-U.S. museums seeking AAM assistance in finding a partner must submit profile forms by October 31, 2014; U.S. and non-U.S. museums with identified partnerships must submit museum profile forms by January 13, 2015. The deadline for submitting statements of intent to propose is January 20, 2015; final proposals are due April 7, 2015. Visit the American Alliance of Museums website for program details.

### School Library Book Collections Funded

#### **[Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries](#)**

The mission of the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries is to help school libraries encourage and foster a love of reading, support student learning, and make books and reading materials available to students who otherwise would not have access to them. Grants of up to \$7,000 are available to update, extend, and diversify the book collections of school libraries throughout the United States, the American territories, and Department of Defense schools in other countries. Only schools where a minimum of 85% of the student body qualifies for the federal Free or Reduced Lunch Program are eligible to apply. Funds are provided solely for books, e-books, or magazines and serials in print, Braille, or audio form. Requests for staffing, shelving, furniture, equipment, software, videos, classroom book sets, or exams are not considered. All grants are made to individual schools rather than to school districts, foundations, or other entities. The application deadline is December 15, 2014. Online application information is available on the Foundation's website.

### Grants Enhance Public Trails Nationwide

#### **[American Hiking Society: National Trails Fund](#)**

The National Trails Fund, sponsored by American Hiking Society (AHS), provides support to grassroots nonprofit organizations throughout the country working toward establishing, protecting, and maintaining foot trails in America. The Fund's grants, ranging from \$500 to \$5,000, help give local groups the resources they need to secure access, volunteers, tools, and materials to protect America's public trails. Grants will be considered for the following: projects that have hikers as the primary constituency; projects that secure trail lands, including acquisition of trails and trail corridors and the costs associated with acquiring conservation easements; projects that will result in substantial ease of access, improved hiker safety, and/or avoidance of environmental damage; and projects that promote constituency building surrounding specific trail projects. Applying organizations must be AHS Alliance Members. Online applications may be submitted from November 1 to December 12, 2014. Visit the American Hiking Society website for application guidelines as well as information on becoming an AHS Member.

### Outstanding Child Care Teachers Recognized

#### **[Terri Lynne Lokoff/Children's TYLENOL National Child Care Teacher Awards](#)**

The Terri Lynne Lokoff/Children's TYLENOL National Child Care Teacher Awards acknowledge the critical role of child care teachers in providing quality early care and education. Child care teachers from all 50 states and the District of Columbia and on U.S. Military bases and installations around the world are eligible to apply for these awards. Applicants must be full-time child care teachers employed in a home, group, or center-based program for a minimum of three years and meet other eligibility guidelines. As part of the application process, teachers are asked to design an enhancement project for the children in their classroom or home, illustrating the educational, social, and emotional benefits from the project. Fifty selected teachers will each receive a \$1,000 grant; \$500 to create the project and \$500 for the teacher's personal use. Of the top ten recipients, one is selected to receive the Helene Marks Award, which includes an additional \$1,000 grant. Applications must be postmarked by December 8, 2014. Visit the Foundation's website to download the application guidelines.

### ***Regional Funding***

Community Health Coalitions in New Jersey Supported

**[New Jersey Health Initiatives: Building a Culture of Health in New Jersey – Communities Moving to Action](#)**

The New Jersey Health Initiatives (NJHI), a program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, supports innovative approaches to resolve health and healthcare needs in New Jersey. The NJHI Building a Culture of Health in New Jersey – Communities Moving to Action initiative is intended to help communities across New Jersey to make sustainable systems changes and policy-oriented solutions for healthier living. NJHI will support up to ten existing multi-sector, community-focused coalitions to participate in this four-year initiative. In year one of the initiative, teams from each of the ten coalitions selected will participate in the Boundary Spanning Leadership Institute. Grant funds of up to \$50,000 will be provided for expenses associated with the coalitions' participation in the Institute, as well as activities to support the coalitions as they develop their Blueprints for Action. Examples of eligible applicants include health and human service agencies, educational institutions, hospital systems, faith-based organizations, local government agencies, and nonprofit organizations. The application deadline is January 15, 2015. Visit the NJHI website to download the call for proposals.

Alaska Native Sustainability Programs Funded

**[Alaska Conservation Foundation: Alaska Native Fund](#)**

The purpose of the Alaska Native Fund, a program of the Alaska Conservation Foundation (ACF), is to advance Alaska Native priorities for protecting their land and sustaining their ways of life. The Fund's grantmaking priorities include the following: Climate Change, Food Security, Sustainable Economies, Energy, and Holistic Wellness. Alaska Native organizations and individuals that address one of these issues are eligible to apply. Grants range up to \$20,000 for organizations and up to \$10,000 for individuals. (The Fund will also provide grants of up to \$5,000 for applicants implementing Youth Organizing strategies.) Letters of inquiry are due December 1, 2014; full proposals must be submitted by March 1, 2015. Visit ACF's website to learn more about the Fund's application guidelines.

Grants Promote Diverse Audiences for California Arts Organizations

**[James Irvine Foundation: Exploring Engagement Fund](#)**

The mission of the James Irvine Foundation is to expand opportunity for the people of California to participate in a vibrant, successful, and inclusive society. The Exploring Engagement Fund, an initiative of the Foundation's Arts Program, supports nonprofit organizations that are hungry to experiment and discover ways to engage Californians typically underserved by arts organizations. The Fund provides risk capital for organizations with innovative ideas about how to involve new and diverse participants, including people in low-income groups and communities of color. The Fund is open to arts nonprofits throughout California, with preference given to those in the San Joaquin Valley, and Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Applying organizations should have an annual operating budget of at least \$100,000. Grants of up to \$250,000 per year over two years are offered. Initial applications will be accepted on a rolling basis through December 28, 2015. Visit the Foundation's website to learn more about the Exploring Engagement Fund's guidelines.

Maryland Environmental Policy Initiatives Supported

**[Town Creek Foundation](#)**



The Town Creek Foundation's mission is to provide resources to help catalyze, support, and accelerate progressive changes in environmental policy and practice within the state of Maryland. The Foundation supports nonprofit organizations that address one of the following programs: The Chesapeake Bay program focuses on ensuring that state and local leaders have the support necessary for developing, implementing, and sustaining robust Bay pollution reduction strategies. The Climate Change program works to identify and pursue necessary new laws, policies, and regulations, and to promote strong leadership and bold strategies from office holders, advocates, and citizens. The Sustainability program promotes public dialogue about the systemic challenges that the state faces, and helps leaders better understand and pursue the transformational opportunities facing Maryland in the 21st century. The Foundation reviews letters of inquiry twice each year; the upcoming deadline is November 14, 2014. Guidelines for developing online letters of inquiry are available on the Foundation's website.

### *Federal Funding*

Funding Available for Youth Prescription Drug Abuse Studies

#### **Department of Health and Human Services**

The Interventions for Youth Who Misuse/Abuse Prescription Stimulant Medications in High School and/or College-Attending Youth program is seeking to fund studies to develop and test interventions of high school and college-attending youth who are at risk for prescription stimulant misuse. Optional letters of intent are due October 13, 2014. The application deadline is November 13, 2014.

Atlantic Sea Scallop Research Supported

#### **Department of Commerce**

The Atlantic Sea Scallop Research Set-Aside Program is providing support for research into the impact of the Atlantic sea scallops fishery industry as well as habitat management in the Nantucket Lightship, Delmarva, Elephant Trunk, and Hudson areas. Applications are due November 12, 2014.

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### **Powwow Shorts**

#### **Mandaree (2) - United Tribes Powwow 2014**

Contest Drum: Mandaree singing at United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck, North Dakota  
September 2014 Friday Session                      youtube.com

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Mandaree (4) - United Tribes Powwow 2014 Teen Girls Traditional

Contest Drum: Mandaree singing at United Tribes Technical College Powwow in Bismarck, North... youtube.com ~~~~~

Blackfoot Crossing Kyi yo 2008 2008 Contest song youtube.com

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**MVI 8407 Lonnie Barber Waadookodaading Drum** at the Wisconsin State Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection Consultation with Tribal Leaders meeting at the LCO Convention Center, 10/8/14.

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<http://thesheetnews.com/2014/10/09/augies-march-to-100/>                      **Augie's march to 100..**

Born in 1914, Augie Hess has seen the Eastern Sierra change over the last century. The son of a Swiss immigrant and a Mono Basin Paiute and born at Mono Mills, Hess knows more about local history than almost anyone around. As an active... thesheetnews.com|By Angela Evans

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**Mary Gibson**

Great article. It wasn't until I began reading authors like Thomas King, Sherman Alexie, Louise Erdrich that I felt a connection to the literary world. Thank you Debbie, for the work that you do for American Indian children's literature.

**Off the Literary Reservation**

Young-adult fiction is giving Native Americans their own voice.

theamericanconservative.com

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**Follow In The Footsteps Of Ancient Engineers**

Now a nearly forgotten culture, Poverty Point at its peak 3,000 years ago was part of an enormous trading network that stretched for hundreds of miles across the continent. It was - and is - also an engineering marvel, the product of five million hours of labor. Explore the culture of a highly sophisticated people who left behind one of North America's most important archeological sites.

- <http://www.nps.gov/popo/index.htm>

Now a World Heritage Site

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*On October 15 in 1860 the presidential election returns, brought as far west by the Pony Express. were telegraphed the rest of the way to Sacramento.*

*On October 15 in 1970, Senator Alan Bible of Nevada urged the Senate Indian Affairs subcommittee to support legislation giving tribes more legal control over the federal land on which colonies were built.*  
*(Thanks to Dennis M. for historic dates)*



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Background Art - "Beaded Image" by Melissa Melero, 2014, mixed media on canvas.