

# Fun with Foreign Language...where learning a language is fun!

## Benefits of Learning a Foreign Language

### Why Learn a Foreign Language?

According to the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL), [www.cal.org/earlylang/](http://www.cal.org/earlylang/), many of the benefits of learning a foreign language can be summarized into four categories:

**Personal, Cognitive, Academic, and Economic:**

#### Personal Benefits:

- Learning another language allows people to communicate with more people.
- Exposing people to foreign languages gives them an opportunity to learn and appreciate different cultures and customs.

#### Cognitive Benefits:

- According to CAL, “some research suggests that students who receive second language instruction are more creative and better at solving complex problems than those who do not.”
- Learning another language can help to reinforce the knowledge of the English language rules and vocabulary.

#### Academic Benefits:

- CAL reports that “some studies show that children who learn a foreign language score statistically higher on standardized college entrance exams.” The College Examination Board reported that “students who had averaged four or more years of foreign language study scored higher on the verbal section of the Scholastic Aptitude Test than those who had studied four or more years of any other subject.”
- Knowing another language seems to contribute to high academic achievement. Based on a study highlighted on CAL’s website, children that were involved in advanced foreign language programs in high school were likely to perform better academically in college and were less likely to drop out.

#### Economic Benefits:

- Knowing another language gives people a greater number of career opportunities than someone who only knows one language.
- Based on an article from CAL, “Americans who are fluent in more than one language can enhance America’s economic competitiveness abroad.”