

# Should Foreign Language Be Taught In Elementary School Across The U.S.A ?

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# Argument

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Students should start learning a foreign language in school at an age no later than 7 years old.



# Does age matter?

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Children can absorb information easier than adults, allowing them to learn a language faster, easier and with a better accent.



## Children's brains are like plastic.

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Dr. Patricia Kuhl argues that the brain is more malleable and ready to create new circuits before than after puberty. As an adult, "it's a totally different process. You won't learn it in the same way. You won't become (as good as) a native speaker."



Changing of neural path-ways make it harder to learn new things.

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Tessais.org states...

**”Babies and very young children form neural connections at a rapid pace. As the brain develops, it becomes specialized, reinforcing the neural pathways that are regularly used. This is a good thing because it makes the brain more efficient, but it also makes learning new things more challenging.”**

# A study determined if children are more observant than adults.

- Vladimir Sloutsky a professor of psychology at Ohio State University.
- 35 adults and 34 children 4 to 5 years old.

They were shown a screen with two shapes overlapping each other. The participants were told to pay attention to a shape of a certain color (like, the red shape). The shapes on the screen disappeared briefly and another set of shapes appeared. The participants job was to report whether the shapes on the new screen we're the same as the previous screen.



# What were the results of the study?

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- Adults noticed when the target shape changed, noticing it 94 percent of the time, compared to 86 percent of the time for children.
- Vladimir Sloutsky stated ” But the children were much better than adults at noticing when the non-target shape changed. ”
- The children noticed the change in shape 77 percent of the time, compared to the adults that noticed the change 63 percent of the time.

## Conclusion of study.

- "What we found is that children were paying attention to the shapes that they weren't required to", said Sloutsky. "Adults, on the other hand, tended to focus only on what they were told was needed," said Sloutsky.



Learning a new language at a young age gives many advantages to a child socially, and academically.



# Children become more open-minded about different cultures.

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Chiquisocial.com explains that the first seven years of a child's life is when their belief system is formed. Being bilingual or multilingual at a young age can make them more aware of cultural differences, understand why those differences exist and be respectful of cultural differences.

- Imagine this on a larger scale.



Being bilingual as a child can help facilitate connections with other people.

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The U.S Department of Education states "Being Bilingual supports children in maintaining strong ties with their families, culture, and community. Bilingual children are also able to make new friends and create strong relationships using their second language."

# What academic advantages do bilingual children have?

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- Bilingual children are better at problem-solving, multitasking, and decision making.
- A study in Scotland and Italy have found bilingual children compared to their monolingual peers we're significantly more successful in problem-solving and creative tasks.
- Bilinguals have also been known to be better at multitasking and blocking out distractions.



Does learning a foreign language at a younger age actually help to learn the language?

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Learning a foreign at a younger age has been proven to be beneficial in not only learning the language/ culture.

# Scandinavian Educational System

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The Scandinavian people have been known for being able to speak really good English.

In 2014, the Danish people were named as the best speakers of English as a foreign language. Sweden also took this title two years in a row before that.

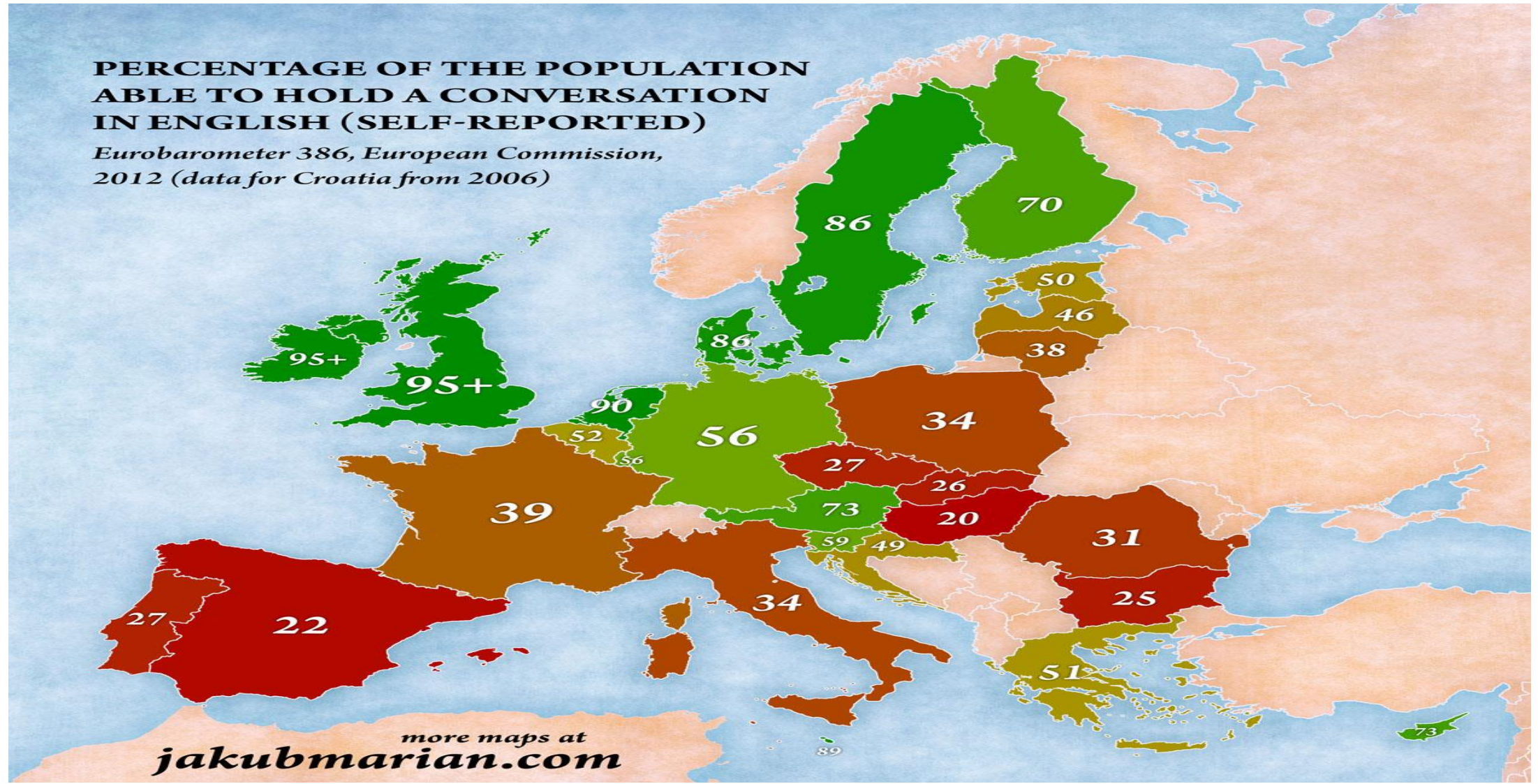
These Scandinavian countries are able to achieve this because in school children start learning English at the most optimal time, third grade.



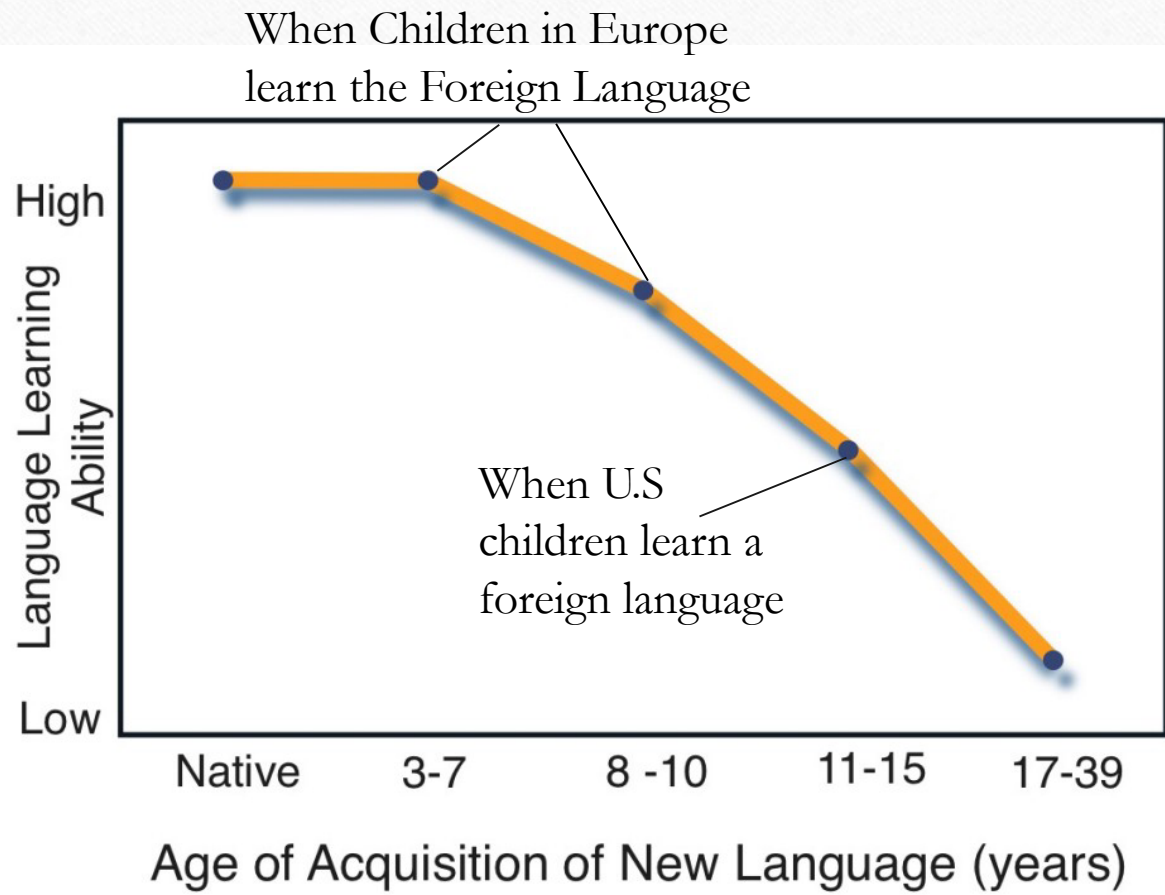


**PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION  
ABLE TO HOLD A CONVERSATION  
IN ENGLISH (SELF-REPORTED)**

*Eurobarometer 386, European Commission,  
2012 (data for Croatia from 2006)*



more maps at  
**[jakubmarian.com](http://jakubmarian.com)**



*Kuhl, 2010*



# The Opposition

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People may argue that learning a foreign language at a young age will cause the children to learn two different languages at the same time, which can be very confusing.

There have been studies that say otherwise...

NBC News states "It is remarkable that babies being raised bilingual – by simply speaking to them in two languages – **can learn both in the time it takes most babies to learn one.**"

## Ultimately...

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It will be easier to learn a foreign language at a younger age because how the brain is during childhood.

Children are also found to be more observant than adults.

Children will be able to develop new relationship understand different cultures and do better in school because of their biliteracy.

Schools across the United States need to teach foreign language in elementary schools.



Thank you  
for listening  
to my presentation.  
I hope you  
enjoyed it!

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