



# Raising Children Bilingually in the United States

*Iulia Pittman*

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Bilingualism in the world is the norm, rather than the exception. Unlike in other countries where bilingualism often survives over numerous generations, in the United States, it generally takes two or three generations for a minority language to be lost. In a country where the very definition of American embodies the intersection of different languages, cultures, and ethnicities, the assimilation process into American culture often takes place at the expense of minority languages and cultures. This volume is a collection of inspiring stories told by authors who share their experiences raising children bilingually in the US. The book begins with a chapter that offers theoretical background to the reader, followed by a number of personal stories by parents dealing with challenges and suggestions for raising children bilingually in the US, and ending with a chapter on a successful Saturday school for heritage Spanish-speaking children. Whether it is through puppets, funny triggers back to the minority language, a linguistic barter system, or creative opportunities to use the minority language, this volume provides hope and insight to parents who have considered raising their children bilingually.

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