



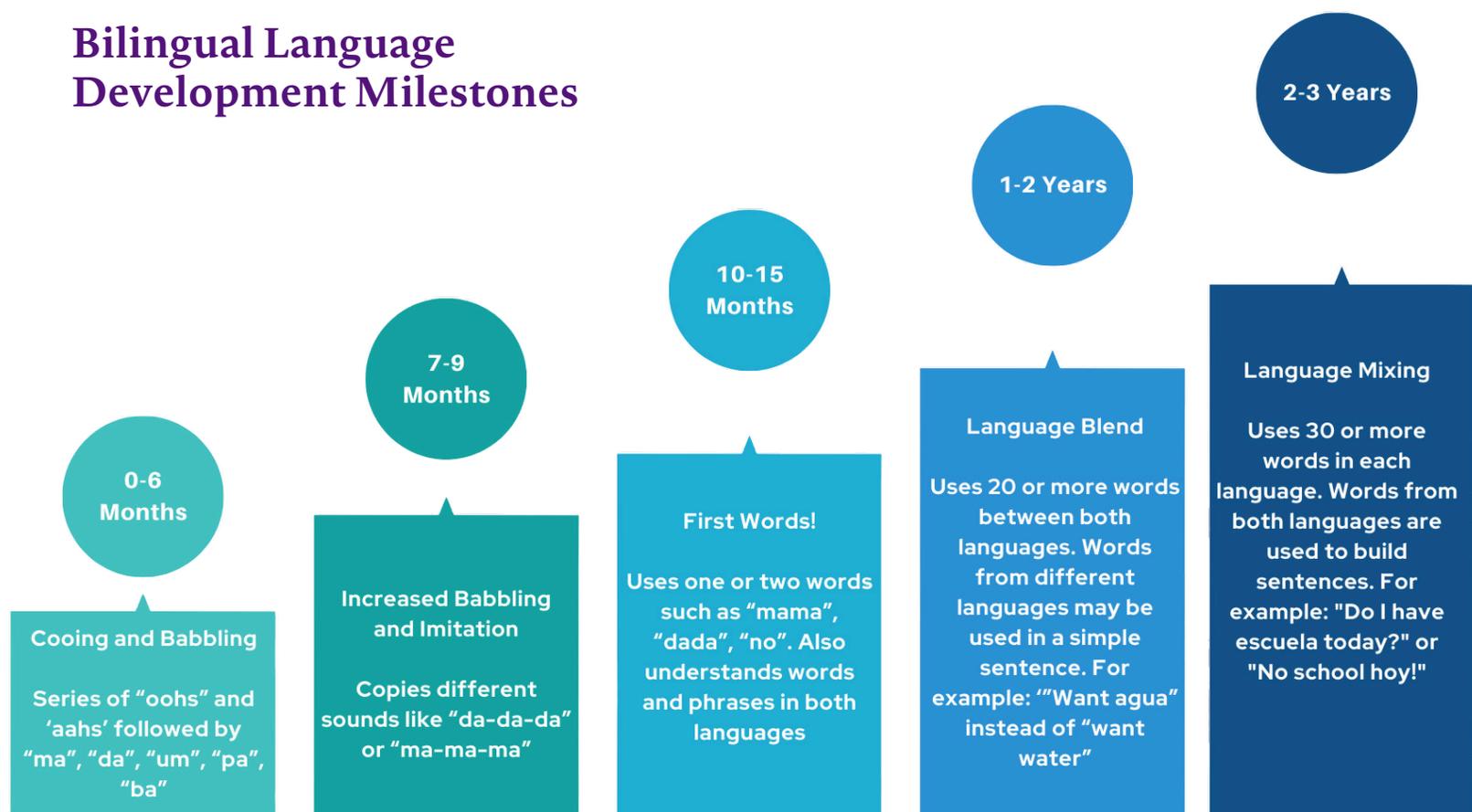
## Double the Fun! From Babble to Bilingual

Help Me Grow Long Island helps you give your child a strong start by supporting language development in babies.

For some children, their start includes learning two languages at once. The American Academy of Pediatrics shows that more than 20% of children in the United States speak a language other than English at home.

It is natural for babies to learn multiple languages, but there may be questions as a child develops and learns more than one language at once.

### Bilingual Language Development Milestones



# Who are Bilingual Learners?



 **Bilingual Learners** are children who learn two languages at the same time. They may have at least one parent or caregiver who speaks a language other than English.

## Benefits to Dual Language Learning

 **Family Benefits** - Children that learn two languages have greater access to people and resources, such as family members who are more familiar with another language. In many households, learning a second language is a way of preserving their culture.

 **Academic Benefits** - Research suggests that learning a second language may help enhance language, social, and cognitive skills. Knowing more than one language may also provide potential job and travel opportunities in the future.

 **Community Benefits** - Knowing more than one language can promote cultural diversity and a sense of belonging for our communities, which in turn helps build wellbeing and resilience.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**HOW CAN WE MAINTAIN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES?**

Make sure your child gets to hear and practice different languages regularly.

**WILL MY CHILD MIX LANGUAGES?**

Yes! Using both languages in the same sentence can be expected.

**WILL LEARNING DIFFERENT LANGUAGES CAUSE SPEECH DELAY?**

No! A bilingual child's vocabulary in both languages will be at least the same size as a monolingual child's.

**WHAT IF I THINK MY CHILD HAS A SPEECH DELAY?**

Discuss with a speech therapist if you suspect your child has a speech delay. All testing should be done in the languages your child uses.

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## Contact Us

Parents, guardians, or caregivers of a child/children under five years old can access free resources - for both them and their young one.

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 <https://helpmegrowny.org/long-island/>

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