

Some reflections on Tales@Home

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Meet Sven



- in Egypt: learned to fluently speak Arabic from his Egyptian nanny by age 2;6
- spoke a little bit of Swedish by then (Swedish diplomat parents)
- stopped speaking Arabic after his move to Brussels at 2;6
- ages 2;6 – 4;6: was very unhappy at his English-French preschool and did not speak at school
- continued to speak very little Swedish
- became happier after he transferred to a French-Swedish school
- by age 5;6 Sven was speaking some French and had much improved in Swedish

(De Houwer 2011)

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Meet Kate



- understood and spoke both English and Dutch very well by age 3;8; lived in Belgium (De Houwer 1990)
- then moved to the US
- by age 4, had stopped talking Dutch
- at age 4;6 she could no longer communicate with her Dutch-speaking grandparents (who spoke no English) (De Houwer 2009)
- this was very difficult for everyone involved

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Meet Carlo



- grew up bilingually in the UK
- as a preschooler, Carlo understood and spoke both English and Italian
- there were apparently no issues that people related to Carlo's bilingualism

(e.g., Serratrice 2001, 2002)

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different young child bilinguals and their families...

- have very different experiences with early bilingual development
- these experiences range from **very positive** over **neutral** to **highly negative**
- the nature of these experiences may change over time

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Harmonious Bilingual Development



- the development of bilingualism in the absence of negative feelings attributed to language use

(De Houwer 2006, 2015)

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