

A Review of: *Raising a Bilingual Child*

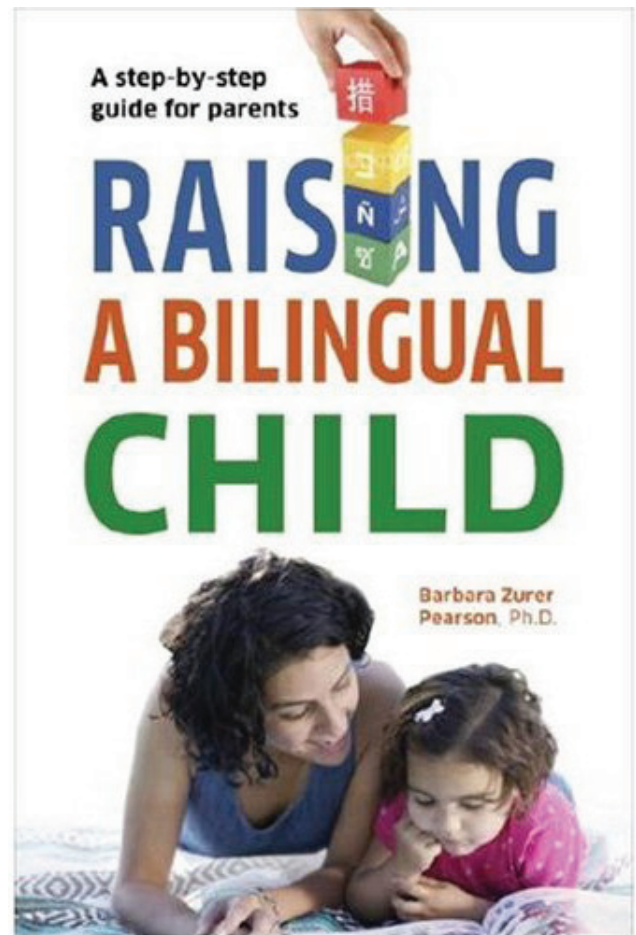
BY ALICE LAPUERTA

Raising a Bilingual Child: A step-by-step guide for parents by Barbara Zurer Pearson, is a comprehensive and versatile handbook with depth and zest.

Whether it is a reference book that you seek, or a bag of practical tips and tricks to put to immediate action, or comprehensive information on theory and research, this book covers it all. As a guidebook for parents it presents the nuts and bolts of raising a child in two or more languages. Yet in its holistic approach towards bilingualism this book is more than a manual. **It goes well beyond general background information and addresses issues of universal bilingualism, bilingual identity, school matters, research controversies and much more.**

This book has one of the best summaries and discussions on bilingual research I have come across so far, and it is worthwhile picking up this book for this reason alone. We parents often don't have time to wade through pages and pages of scientific studies on bilingualism, which are usually written in inaccessible academic language. Often we fail to decode the significance of a given study and how it relates to the development of our children. **What *Raising a Bilingual Child* does so successfully is to explain in down-to-earth language why these studies are relevant to us and how they play out in our every-day lives.** This leads to many exciting "A-ha" reading experiences.

The author herself has studied and worked with many bilingual families, notably with the University of Miami



Bilingualism Study Group, whose testimonials form the groundwork of this book. Of particular interest, therefore, is a chapter on "How-to Testimonials" in which 36 families are presented. **We get to peek into the households of these families and learn how they do it.** From the accidental bilingual to the non-native speaker, the bicultural couple to the single mother, the relocated family to the adopted child, the case studies presented cover such a wide, flexible range, the chances are that you will find your situation reflected in one of theirs.

The book is informative, supportive, comforting and inspirational – and highly recommendable! Grounded in scientific research and backed up with case studies, you get everything served on a silver platter. **If you are going to read only one book on multilingualism, we suggest that you let this be the one!** ❖