Bilingualism

- English is second language for 32 million Americans

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Immigrants in the United States

- Are monolingual speakers of their native language
- Develop bilingualism as they acquire English
- Establish English-speaking households
- Raise their children as English-speaking monolinguals (Pease-Alveraz, 1993)

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Long-term Bilingualism

- According to survey data, even Spanish, a language thought to be particularly enduring in the United States, seldom lasts beyond the second or third generation (Pease-Alveraz, 1993)

Why do you think this occurs?

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Cognitive Advantages of Bilingualism

- Greater cognitive flexibility
- Higher self-esteem
- Greater meta-linguistic awareness
- Potential improved IQ scores

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SCHOOLING: THE THREE Rs (AND MORE) OF MIDDLE CHILDHOOD
Reading: Learning to Decode Meaning Behind Words

- No other task that is more fundamental to schooling than learning to read
- Reading involves significant number of skills

What was the first book you remember reading?

How Should We Teach Reading?

- Disagreement about nature of mechanisms by which information is processed during reading
  - Code-based approaches
  - Whole-language approaches
- National Reading Panel and National Research Council support reading instruction using code-based approaches

Educational Trends: Beyond the Three Rs

- U.S. schools are experiencing return to educational fundamentals (embodied in traditional “three Rs”)
- Elementary school classrooms today stress individual accountability, both for teachers and students

Are We Pushing Too Hard?

*From Research to Practice*

- No Child Left Behind Act
- Outcomes:
  - Frequent testing commonplace
  - Student scores related to federal funding
  - Reading instruction sometimes replaces recess and other activities
  - Increase in amount of homework
  - Some children burn out

Is extra homework worth the cost?

- Time spent on homework is associated with greater academic achievement in secondary school
- Relationship gets less strong for the lower grades; below grade 5, the relationship disappears
- For older children more homework is not necessarily better
- Some research indicates that benefits of homework may reach plateau beyond which additional time spent on homework produces no further benefits
The social and emotional development of children are taking a back seat to literacy education.

Do you agree?

Developmental Diversity

Cultural Assimilation or Pluralistic Society?
- Cultural assimilation model
- Pluralistic society model

Fostering a Bicultural Identity
- School systems encourage children to maintain their original cultural identities while they integrate themselves into dominant culture
- More contemporary approaches emphasize a bicultural strategy in which children are encouraged to maintain simultaneous membership in more than one culture

Intelligence: Determining Individual Strengths

Intelligence -- problem-solving skills and the ability to learn from and adapt to life’s everyday experiences
- Interest in intelligence has often focused on individual differences and assessment
  - Individual differences -- the stable, consistent ways in which people are different from each other
Historic Assessments of Intelligence

- Binet and Simon, in France in 1904, developed an intelligence test to meet the need to devise a method of identifying children who were unable to learn in school.
- Binet developed the concept of mental age (MA) -- an individual's level of mental development relative to others.

In 1912, William Stern created the concept of intelligence quotient (IQ) -- a person's mental age divided by his/her chronological age (CA):
- Revisions to the Binet test are called the Stanford-Binet tests because revisions were made at Stanford University.
- IQ = MA/CA × 100 (statistical definition of intelligence).
- A normal (or gaussian) distribution shows a symmetrical curve, with a majority of the scores falling in the middle of the possible range of scores and fewer and fewer scores in the extremes of the range.

Generational Changes: The Flynn Effect

Intelligence Benchmarks

- Binet's Test
  - Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scales, Fifth Edition (SB5)
- Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children—Fourth Edition (WISC-IV)
- Kaufman Assessment Battery for Children, 2nd Edition (KABC-II)

Alternative Conceptions of Intelligence

- Spearman’s g
- Catell: fluid and crystallized intelligence
- Gardner: 8 intelligences
- Sternberg: triarchic theory of intelligence