

Postmedia News February 20, 2011

- [Story](#)
- [Photos \( 1 \)](#)



## **Infants are just as capable of growing up bilingual as they are unilingual, according to new University of B.C. research. File photo.**

**Photograph by: Wayne Cuddington, Ottawa Citizen**

VANCOUVER — Infants are just as capable of growing up bilingual as they are unilingual, according to new University of B.C. research.

Psychologist Janet Werker's joint findings with Prof. Nuria Sebastian-Galles of Barcelona University were presented Friday to the American Association for the Advancement of Science's annual general meeting in Washington, D.C.

Their research on babies raised in homes where Catalan and Spanish were spoken showed that infants at four, six and eight months could discern different languages — English and French — whereas monolingual infants who also had the ability to discern those languages at four and six months lost this ability by the time they were eight months old.

The infants who were part of the study were shown silent videos of talking faces speaking English and French and found that the bilingual-exposed babies were able to distinguish between French and English simply through facial clues.

© Copyright (c) The Vancouver Sun

- [E-mail this Article](#)
- [Print this Article](#)