Advantages of Immersion Education

What is the value of immersion education for a child? What does the Irish and international research say?

**Cognitive advantages**
- Children can become more creative thinkers
- Helps to improve memory skills
- They’re better able to pay attention to concentrate on and complete tasks
- Research has shown that being bilingual can delay the onset of Alzheimer’s Disease by four years

**Fluency and literacy in two languages**
- Children develop fluency and literacy in both Irish and English in school
- Better understanding of the foundations of language: grammar, word formation, sentence structure
- Easier for the children to learn additional languages, thanks to the literacy skills they acquire through immersion education
- Transferrable skills can be applied to other languages

**Confidence and identity**
- Receive broader exposure to other cultures and develop a greater respect for them
- Better understanding of their own sense of self, and this gives them increased self-esteem
- Promotes deeper multiculturalism and less racism

**Increased educational attainment**
- Attain higher grades in standardised tests both in English and in maths than their peers in English-medium schools
- Irish-medium primary schools are more likely to provide a broader curriculum than other school types
- Candidates who answer in Irish in the written examination in certain Leaving Certificate subjects may be given bonus marks
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Want evidence? Further information on these benefits, as well as research references, is available at [www.gaeloideachas.ie](http://www.gaeloideachas.ie)

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