



**Parenting Education Webinar Series
Professional Development for Parenting Educators**

**Tuesday, April 10, 2012
11:50 a.m- 1:30 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time**

**Early Bilingual Experience and its Relationship to
Language and Cognitive Development**

**Dr. Gina Lebedeva, PhD, SLP Institute for Learning and Brain Sciences (I-LABS)
Director, Translation, Outreach & Education (TOE) University of Washington**

We know that the best time to learn a second language in life is to start as a baby, but what about the brain makes that happen? New studies are uncovering details on how experiences early in life literally shape babies' brain and language development, and relate to other cognitive capacities. While there are marked differences between monolingual and bilingual patterns of learning, there are also fundamental similarities, observable from infancy. Whether learning one language or three, research findings can be applied to support all children's learning starting from their first relationships, and the quality of their interactions with adults, in the first years of life. This discussion will highlight current best evidence on early bilingual language development, key findings from early childhood bilingual brain research, and connections between executive function and bilingualism in young children.

The discussion will support participants' abilities to:

- Articulate the importance of first relationships and how early literacy experiences shape babies' brain and language development.
- Identify differences and similarities between monolingual and bilingual infant language development.
- Generate specific strategies to improve interactions at home and in classrooms to support early communication
- Deepen awareness of how basic brain and behavioral research on infants and young children can influence the quality of their experiences

Suggested readings and additional resources will be included in workshop materials.

Dr. Gina Lebedeva ("LEH-beh-dev-ah") is the Translation, Outreach, and Education (TOE) Specialist at the University of Washington's Institute for Learning and Brain Sciences (I-LABS). Partnering with both local and national groups, their focus is on translating and disseminating

current research discoveries in developmental cognitive neuroscience to educators, policy makers, parents and the public, to help bridge the gap between the science and practice of early learning.

Her doctoral research with Patricia Kuhl explored several aspects of language acquisition and development including relationships between speech perception, emergent language and early literacy, word learning in toddlers. She led studies examining infant-directed speech, brain-behavior relationships in preschoolers, and parallels between infants' perception of music and speech. Dr. Lebedeva is also trained as a speech-language pathologist, specializing in early intervention and infant mental health. With a foundation in evidence-based practice and coaching the caregiver-infant relationship, she believes that by translating research on how early experiences sculpt the brain, we can better support children's learning, whether through policies, classroom practices or everyday interactions.

Prior to joining UW, Dr. Lebedeva's research in psycholinguistics led to a magna cum laude BS from Cornell University, after which she managed the Language and Cognition Lab at Columbia University. A native of Pittsburgh and resident of Seattle, her other passions include playing the oboe, social dancing with her husband, and witnessing magical moments in early learning, courtesy her son.

More Info: <http://ilabs.washington.edu>, ginacc@uw.edu

Registration Details

The webinar will be hosted by Drew Betz and Jane Lanigan, WSU Extension. There is no cost to participate but registration is required. Audience participation will be limited to live chat session that will be moderated by the hosts. **The session will be archived.**

The webinar room will open at 11:50 a.m. Participants will be guided through audio set-up and encouraged to participate in the chat features of the program. Dr. Lebedeva's presentation will begin promptly at noon, PDT.

To register, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/parentingApril10> and complete the registration process. You will be sent the link for the new webinar on April 9th. Registration will be closed at 4 p.m. on April 6th, PDT.

Extension Programs are open to all without discrimination.