



SUCCESS STORIES

ORLAITH & OPHELIA



You are never too young to learn a language as four-year-old Orlaith Eaton and her two-year-old sister Ophelia prove and in this case study their mother Jessie explains how much they have benefited from learning French at the VICI Language Academy in Newbury.

"I first heard about VICI from one of the other Mums, Anita Hatton. Both her son and daughter go and she said how wonderful it was and both her children absolutely adored it. She explained it ran during the summer holidays and we went and did a test run or sample run for one or two months and then we signed up and did the Masters programme.

"So Orlaith is four and started when she was three and Ophelia is two and started literally on her second birthday. The girls are loving it. Ophelia, wasn't speaking any English when she first went and now she's speaking in both French and English in the space of a couple of months, I genuinely believe that attending Vici has been the spark she needed to start talking. And Orlaith does her letters and colours and numbers in French and dreams in French.

"When they're small, their brains are capable of absorbing so much and the more languages and the more sounds that they're exposed to, the greater

their understanding of not only their native language, but the capacity to adopt other languages as they get older. It is beneficial to understanding of syntax and pronunciation in English and makes it far easier when they are

*"I think when she'd been there about six months she was speaking in French and she was saying "Bonjour" in her sleep. I remember telling Nathalie the next morning:
"She's now dreaming in French!"*

older to adopt additional languages. With a second language you can travel round the world and it affords you a different perspective, as you are not simply a tourist trying to understand a foreign environment, instead you can be absorbed into that environment and experience a very different world to that of your own, something that many people do not have the opportunity

to do. Also it's fantastic as learning a second language has the same qualities for a child's brain as doing music.

"The opportunities it gives the children, it's good all round. And the staff are sweet and they're just fantastic with the girls who love it, so yeah, it's a no-brainer. It's an extremely good academy"

"I think it is exceptionally valuable in future and I must say, when I was looking to applying for Masters courses and then after Masters for a research positions, the second language was the thing: "You must have a second language, you must have a second language." Now that was the case several years ago, so by the time the children are of an age to attend university, they're going to be wanting at least one second language, if not two. And if they've developed one earlier on, they'll become pretty proficient in it by the time they're in their late teens, early twenties. "Especially if you do one of the Level 5 languages, the ones like Cyrillic, Mandarin – the ones that are really hard – I think once you've proficient in a language that bears some similarities to your own, you will have a greater aptitude for languages that are less familiar, potentially making languages that one would consider somewhat abstract, more accessible. I believe that until the age of three and a half, a child can absorb 2,500 different dialects, something like that. And there's only so much painting and drawing I can do at home, and my French is about four words, so Anita had the fantastic idea of handing them over to the professionals who would actually articulate properly and pronounce stuff properly and not get grumpy when they didn't do what they were told.

"I would absolutely recommend VICI for the huge benefits a language can deliver to children and because of Nathalie and her team; they are all wonderful. Mr Thenot and his lovely assistant are so patient and kind to the

children. The girls absolutely adore Madame Desain. She's just such a lovely, lovely lady and so sweet and so gentle and the children think she is completely wonderful. And they obviously adore Nathalie who's just glamorous and beautiful all the time. Two small girls – they're going to go for the glamorous and beautiful!



"You've got a lovely environment in which the children can learn. It's not a formal classroom. There is a little bit of competitive nature – so if one child gets it the others will to give it a go, especially in the older classes. In a one to one environment that would be absent and you miss out on all the social aspects of children learning, having fun together and encouraging one another. It's completely lovely and it's just a very good thing, and that's why we've got both children on the Linguist Masters programme.

"VICI is very good. The opportunities it gives the children, it's good all round. And the staff are sweet and they're just fantastic with the girls who love it, so yeah, it's a no-brainer. It's an extremely good academy and they think about what they do very carefully and they're very open to parents coming and asking questions and they're completely flexible, so I just think it's fantastic all round."

"I plan to learn French in the near future. Once Orlaith's at school full time, when I won't have to be running off halfway through the day!"



Creating True Linguists within our Community

www.thevici.com