

EXAMINING LANGUAGE, LITERACY, AND WELLBEING IN SYRIAN REFUGEE CHILDREN

TITLE OF RESEARCH: Successes and Challenges of Children who are Syrian Refugees: Language, Literacy, and Wellbeing – Bilingual Development in Syrian Refugee Children

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SUMMARY: This longitudinal study examines the factors shaping English acquisition and Arabic language maintenance of recently arrived Syrian refugee children in Canada.

LINK: Click [here](#) to read the executive summary; click [here](#) to read a publication

**Key Messages:**

- After two years of residency, the Syrian children in this study still mostly use Arabic to converse with peers and siblings.
- Syrian children had weaker home language environments than other Canadian bilingual children from diverse migration backgrounds and lengths of residency.

Predictors of Stronger English and Arabic Language Skills:

- Better non-verbal reasoning skills
- More exposure to English (at school) or Arabic (pre-migration)
- More sibling interaction in English
- Higher maternal and paternal education

Recommendations:

Additional language enrichment from schools and communities could benefit children academically and for broader social inclusion.

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the researchers and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Child and Youth Refugee Research Coalition.