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Raising Multilingual and Bilingual Children

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Raising Multilingual and Bilingual Children

Emily Hernandez

Nebraska College Preparatory Academy

Grand Island Senior High School 2021

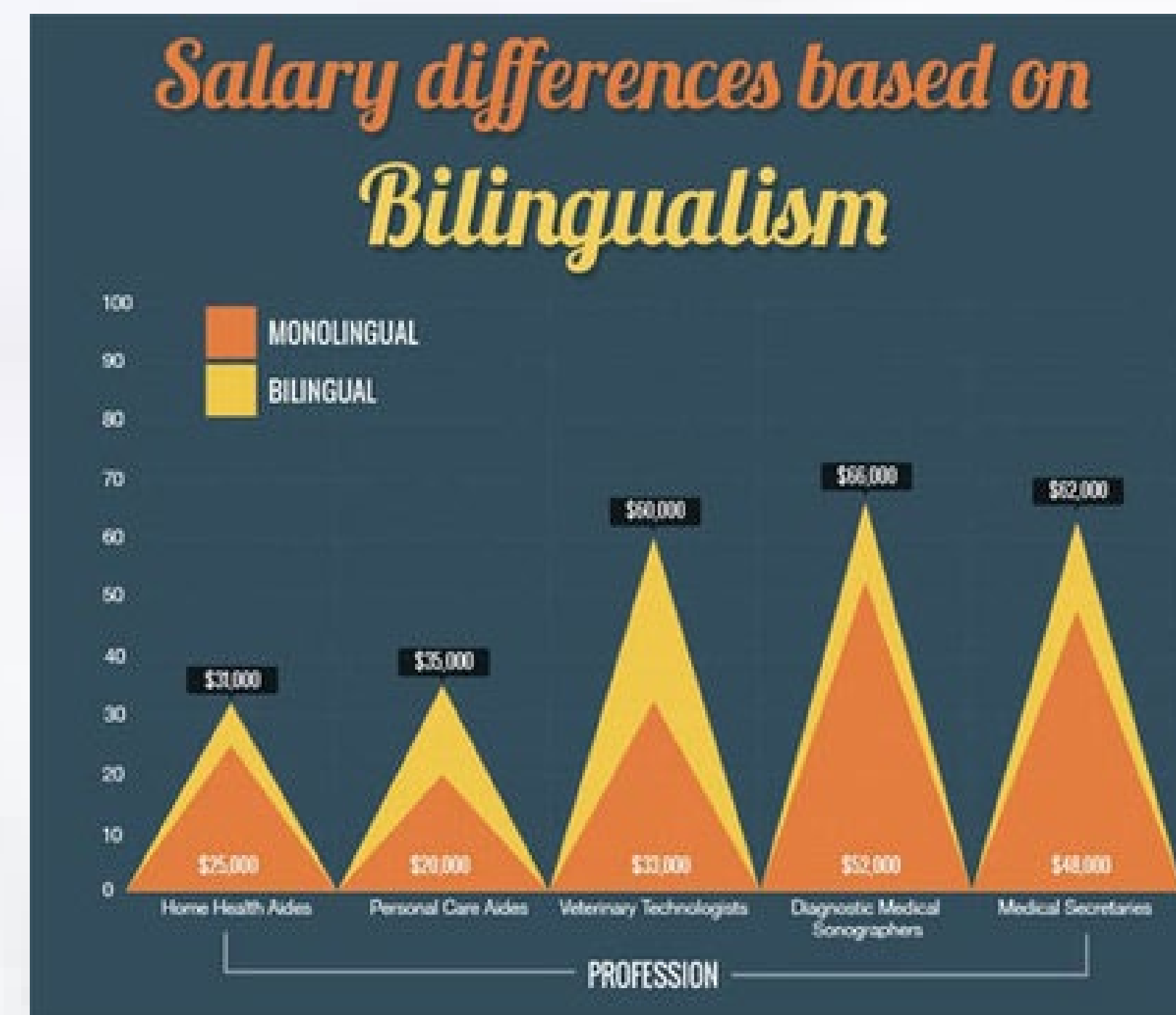
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Abstract

Raising children in a multilingual environment is a very challenging but important part of child development. Many families can agree that having the ability to know multiple languages is a huge advantage to have for future purposes. Separating the role of schools and parents is a very important process. At home, families encounter many activities and real life scenarios. This makes a huge impact on a children's language and literacy. It is a challenge that has positive impacts for the children as well as for the community.

Key Points

- Children may encounter speech delays, [causing] bilingual children [to] develop speech at a slower rate than their monolingual peers (Pittman, 2015, p. 5).
- Children may also face social factors which are normally caused because “peer influence is already greater than parents’ influence in preschool-aged children” (Pittman, 2015, p. 6).
- As children are exposed to a different language with their friends at school they often start to show a preference for that language which could cause the child to begin speaking it at home more than the first language (Pittman, 2015, p. 6).
- Multilingual children have the ability to provide an everlasting impact to their environment by creating a diverse and ethnic community. They can do this through interpreting and translating.



Conclusion

The challenges parents face to raise a multilingual child can easily discourage them to continue to teach their children. Children may even feel an embarrassment around their peers when speaking a foreign language. It is important to constantly practice these languages because they can be very beneficial and can have an everlasting impact on a person's life. Creating a safe environment for people to enhance and practice their language can positively affect a person's life, and can have a positive impact for a community to make bilingualism and multilingualism more important and useful than what it already is. Researching the advantages of each language is also very important as each one has a unique take on the world.

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