



As we launch Series 2, we are delighted to announce that the first set of **Delving a Little Deeper** is now available.

Giulia's Story

Giulia was brought up in a bi-lingual home environment situated in a bi-lingual region of northern Italy. At home she spoke English (with her American mother) and Italian (with her Italian father). At school, she was taught in both Italian and German. In the area where she lived, a local dialect is also spoken. As she grew up, Giulia was therefore exposed to *three* different languages *and* the strong regional dialect!

Absorbing language

Every child absorbs the language(s) that they are exposed to (even in the womb). Giulia absorbed English, Italian, the local dialect and German. Effortlessly, she became multilingual.

How has that fed through to adulthood?

Giulia enjoys languages and is clearly linguistically gifted. Being fluent in 4 languages, she enjoys picking up, 'playing' with all kinds of languages. "It's a game", she tells us. In her work as a tour guide, she travelled to many European countries, 'collecting' languages and mimicking regional accents. Learning languages is easy for her and she attributes this to where she grew up and how she was parented.

Integration and identity

"Don't be afraid to speak your home language with your children."

Giulia explains how a person's language is an essential part of their heritage, identity, and culture. Many families, who bring up children in a different country want their children to integrate well in their adopted country and choose not to speak their home language to their children. Giulia explains that these children are being denied an important part of their identity.

Giulia also points to some languages (often with an oral tradition) are a generation away from losing the language. With this, there is a loss of culture and identity.

Be assured, children will naturally absorb the language of the country where they live and are educated... they are not losing out.

More advantages...

There is significant research that suggests that children who are brought up with multiple languages, benefit intellectually. Their young brain connects ideas and concepts in ways that



Series 2. Episode 1
Turning *Little Stones* show notes.
with **Giulia Postal**

Episode 1
The Gift of Language

children brought up in a mono-lingual society do not. Learning languages after this 'window of opportunity' (see *Delving a Little Deeper Set 1*) will *always* be harder.

Giulia now lives in a different region in Northeast Italy, bordering Slovenia. This area is also bi-lingual (Slovenian and Italian). Professional services, nursery and primary schools are bi-lingual. She explains that often Italian parents choose to send their children to Slovenian high schools. They understand the intellectual and cultural benefits of this.

Don't worry!

Children who are exposed to multiple languages in early childhood may not speak as early as others, which can cause some anxiety to parents. Giulia cites examples from her own family. This speech delay is normal... when they do begin to speak, children typically do not mix up their languages and there is no stopping them!

And finally...

The advantages of bringing children up with multiple languages are massive. Giulia is living testament to the many benefits and simply encourages all families...

"Speak your own language with your children... it's a gift"

Further information, practical guidance and advice are available through,

***Turning Little Stones &
Delving a little Deeper (Set 1)***

See website for details.