Jonathan

Should children be made to learn a second language?

In 2013, 75% of Americans didn’t have a second language. (I love that you’ve opened with this shocking statistic!) Should it be compulsory to have children learn a second language? In my opinion, learning a second language is necessary for children. It gives you the capacity to communicate better, develop your mentality, and more and better job opportunities. (a truly incredible introduction)

(remember to leave a line between paragraphs, to make it easier to read your work!)  
To begin with, learning a second language boosts your communication ability. (lovely topic sentence) You can speak to a wider range of people. It will make things ~~way~~ (considerably) (‘way’ is slightly too informal) easier when you’re in a foreign country. You can also expand your social network; communication with your foreign colleagues or friends won’t be a problem anymore. Facing a foreigner, you won’t get into an embarrassing situation of ~~don’t know~~ (not knowing) what to say except for “Hello”. (I like that you’ve used an example that your audience can relate to)

The second reason why children should learn a second language is it develops their mentality. Studies have shown that it makes parts of your brain grow! Isn’t that amazing?(lovely rhetorical question) The benefits of the growth of your brain are obvious. According to another study, bilinguals have better memories and exam results. (great! Is there a specific quote or statistic you can use to prove that?)

Last of all, learning a second language gives you more and better job opportunities. To work in the EU (European Union), you need to have “thorough knowledge of one of the official EU languages and satisfactory knowledge of a second official EU language”.(brilliant demonstration of research) As you know, now everyone encourages being international and having more oversea employees. If you want to work oversea, you need to learn the language there. A second language can help you promote and get a better salary too. In the UK, employees who know a foreign language earn an extra £3,000 a year! (fab incentive and statistic)

Learning a second language is compulsory for children because you will have better communication, mental development, and more and better job opportunities. It is the best time to learn languages when you’re still young. You may feel bored or get fed up with it during the learning process, but that’s okay! In my opinion, it is getting harder and harder to survive in society if you don’t learn a second language. After learning it, you will benefit from it for your entire life! (Such a successful conclusion, wrapping up the points and just adding some flair as well. Amazing!)

**What Went Well:**

-Your structure to this essay is incredible, with a clear and concise introduction and conclusion, paragraphs with great topic sentences and a readable layout. This may seem like a small thing, but it makes all the difference when you’re persuading someone of something!

-I love how many statistics and facts you have used to back up and solidify your argument. It shows a real sense that you have researched this and are therefore qualified to speak on the subject. I especially like the quote you’ve taken from the EU.

-You use some lovely persuasive techniques throughout, such as direct address, exclamation, rhetorical questions, statistics and even a bit of repetition. These would definitely compel your reader to side with you!

**Even Better If…:**

-Because this essay is so good, you could push yourself to go just slightly further, and maybe use some smiles and metaphors to demonstrate the importance of your point. You could also use the technique of bringing up the opposition argument, why someone may not want to learn another language, and discrediting it to further strengthen your own argument. These are very sophisticated techniques that I think you could get to grips with easily.

-Just a small thing, but make sure to separate out your paragraphs, so that your essay is easy to read. This comes into the element of persuasion, as a reader is much more likely to understand your points if they are laid out clearly.

-Your second paragraph seems slightly lacking in comparison to the first and last. To flesh it out slightly, you could have expanded more on your facts, perhaps saying what surveys you heard that from, or giving a more specific quote or statistic (remember, this is a creative writing task, so they don’t have to be entirely real, and that way you won’t have to spend lots of time researching).