

# *Differential Effects of the iPad on Language Learning in Children*

**Prof. Reima Al-Jarf**  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia  
<http://fac.ksu.edu.sa/raljurf>



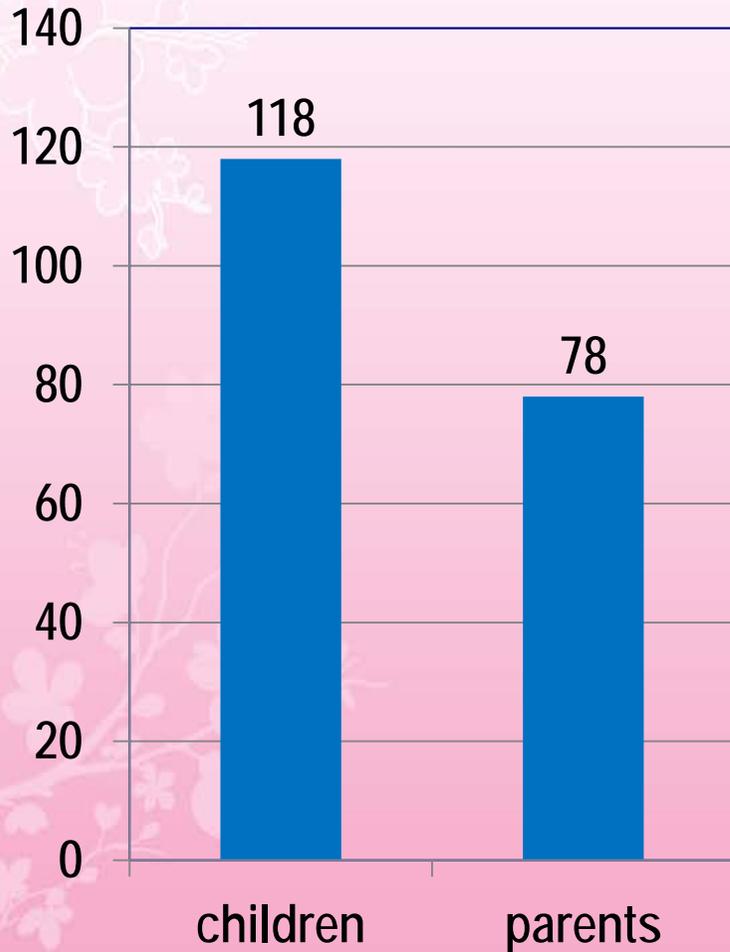
# Aims of Study

- To investigate the differential **effects** of the iPad on **language learning (LL)** by children in Saudi Arabia.
- To compare **3 groups** of children as to **effect** of the iPad on their **language learning**.
- **Focus** is on learning **Arabic** as L1 and **English** as L2.
- The **focus** of the study is on the **informal, out-of-school** use of the iPad.

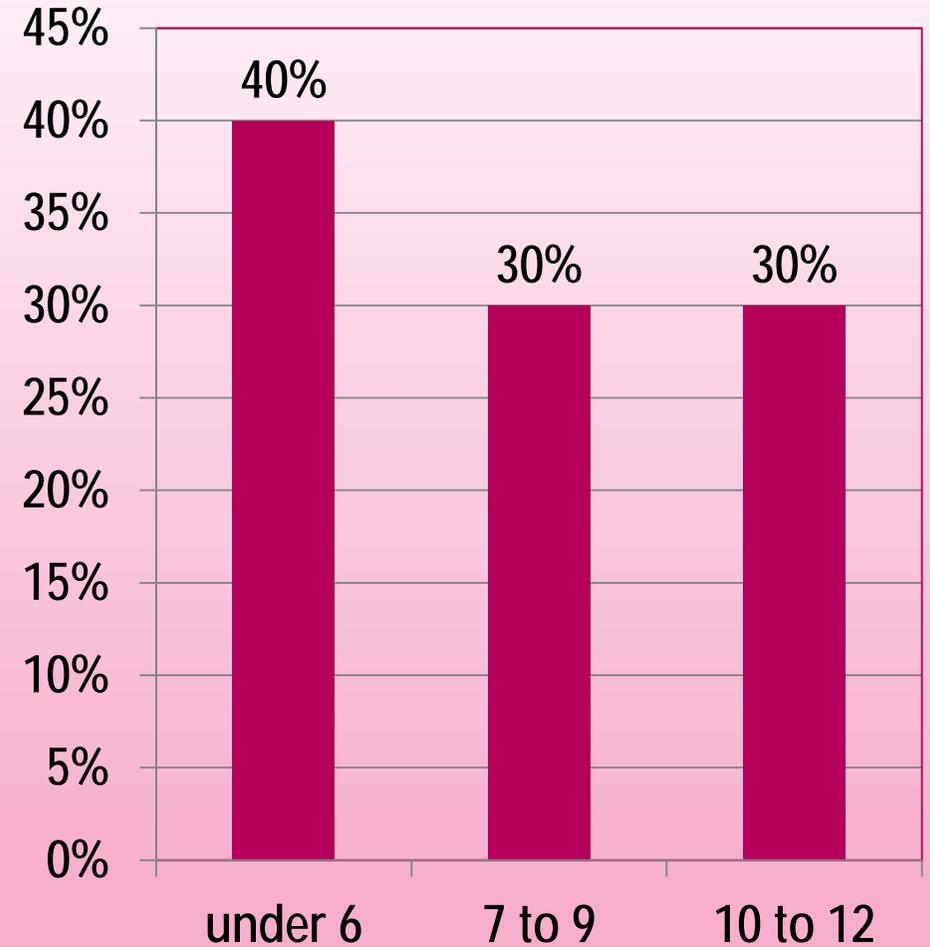


# Subjects

## Samples



## Age Groups

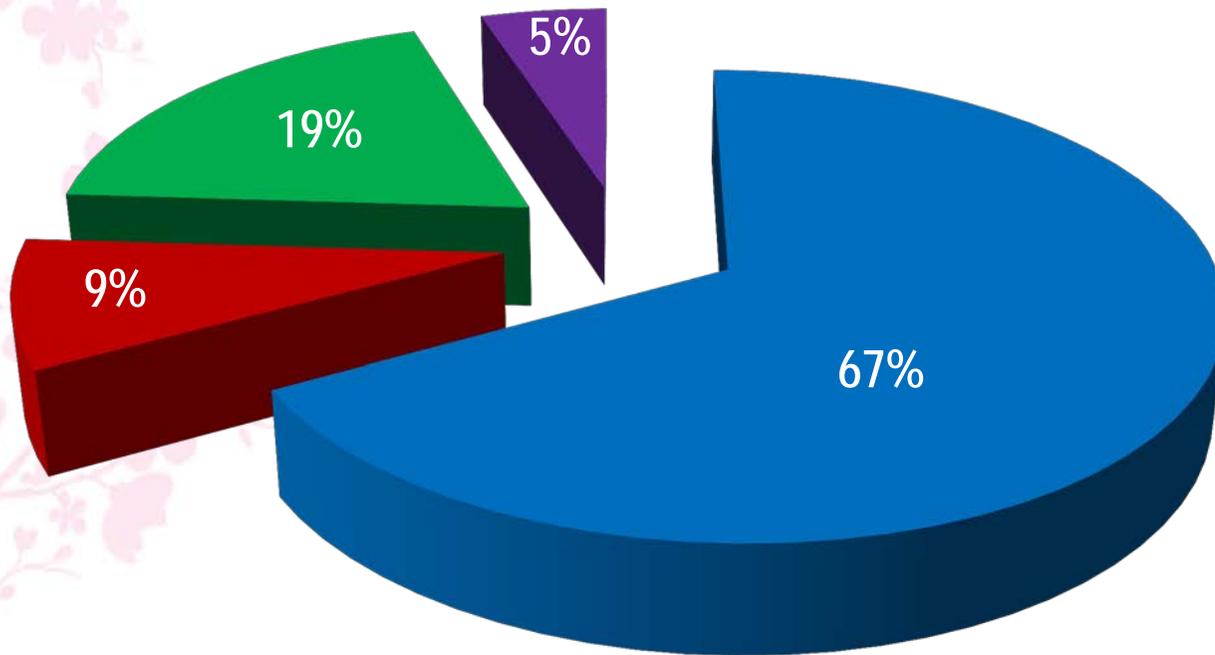


# Data Collection

- Parents were interviewed using open-ended questions:
  - Child's age
  - Language of focus
  - Skills developed
  - Apps used
  - Effect on learning English and/or Arabic
- I interviewed 20 children.

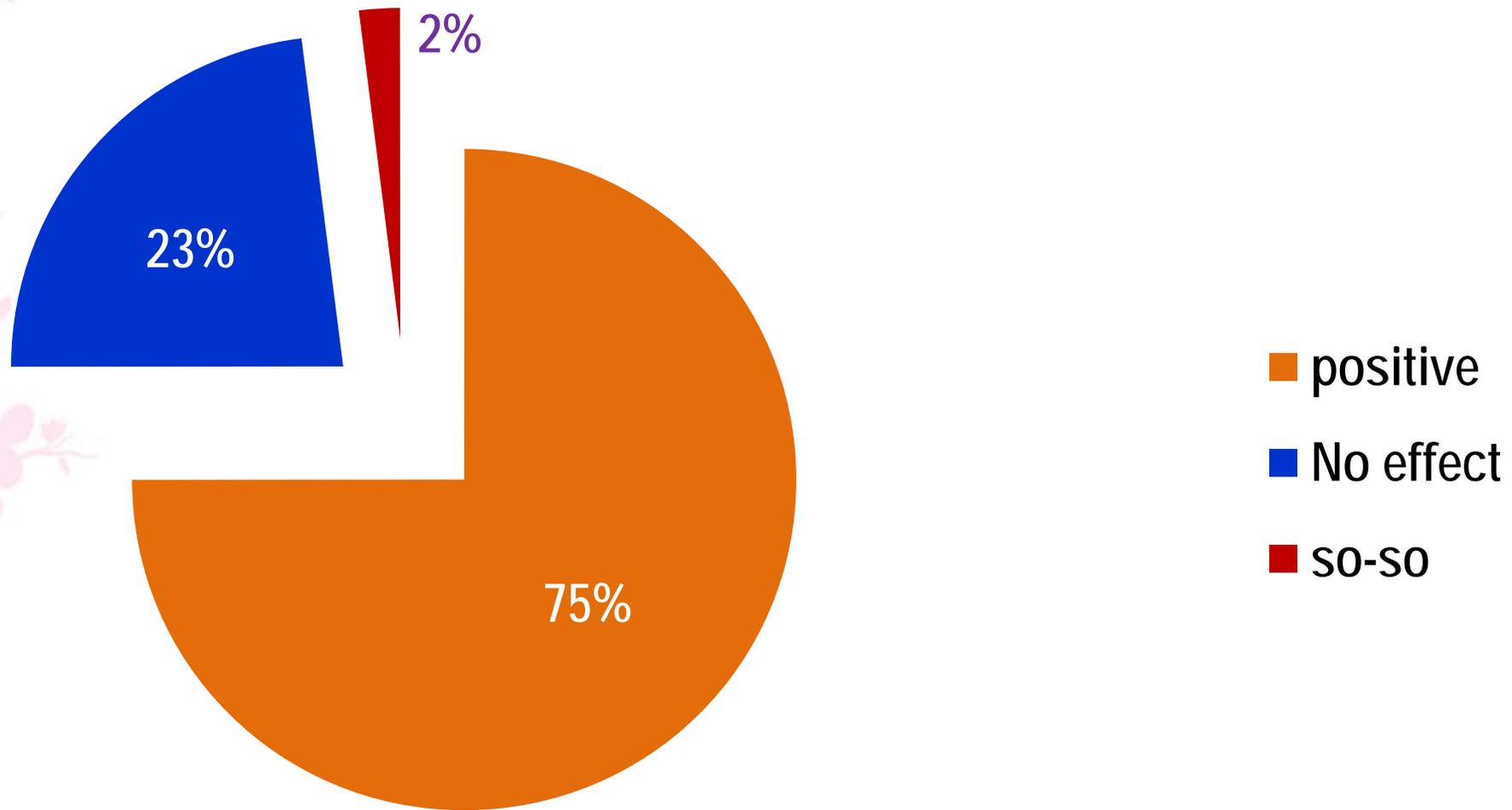


# Which Language?



- English only
- Arabic only

# Effect on Language Learning



# Effect on Different Age Groups?

- In general, parents reported that the iPad is **more effective** in helping children under the **age of 6** in **language learning** than older children in **grades 1-3** & **grades 4-6**.
- The **older** the children, the **less helpful** the iPad is in **language learning**.
- The iPad is **more** used and more **effective** in learning **English** than **Arabic**.

# Use of iPad in Different Age Groups

## **(1) Children in Grades 4-6:**

- Older children do **not use** the iPad for **language learning** purposes at all.
- **Older children** mainly use the iPad to play **games, soccer, car-races** and watch **movies** mostly in **English**.
- They feel that **ducational /language** learning Apps are **boring**.

# Use of iPad in Different Age Groups

## **(2) Children in Grades 1-3:**

- 53% use it for **games**.
- 47% use it in **language** learning
- **More children** use it in **learning English** than Arabic as some **parents** believe that kids do **not need** to **learn Arabic** as it is their L1.

# Children in Grades 1-3:

## Arabic

- Incidental learning of **Vocabulary** & Slang words from **movies** & **games** ( **اشعر** - **بالحزن** - **احمق غبي بالفصحى** - **متجر** - **سكة** )
- Read **stories** such as **Prophets'/Quran** stories
- Read the **Quran**
- Arabic **clan** names

## English

- Incidental learning of vocabulary from movies and games (*Zip it - I love you - I miss you, start, end*)
- read some **stories** in English
- **Conversation**: 5 sentences a day
- **Listen & repeat**
- **Spelling**
- **Pronunciation**
- **look up** difficult English **words** from the **dictionary**.

### **(3) Children under 6 years:**

- **More children** under the age of 6 use the iPad to learn **English** than Arabic because:
  - *they go to **international** kindergarten*
  - *lived abroad with their parents*
  - *parents are **English instructors***
  - *Parents **want their children to know English***
- **3% do not like the iPad.**

## **(3) Children under 6 years:**

### Arabic

- The alphabet (ABC)
- numbers
- animal names
- animal sounds
- Color names
- Fruits & vegetable
- body parts
- shapes
- cloths
- Seasons

### English

- Aphabet (ABC)
- Count to 10
- Animal names
- Animal sound
- color names
- Fruits & vegetable
- Body parts
- shapes
- cloths
- Seasons

# Examples of Apps

- You Tube videos
- Alphabet from videos
- Nursery rhymes
- Songs
- Barney
- Flash cards with words
- Continents from special Apps
- Story Apps

## Arabic:

- Open Sesame **افتح يا سمسم**
- Bara'em Kids' T.V. Channel  
**براعم**
- Heaven's Birds T.V. Channel  
**طيور الجنة**

# What Children Said

- Older Children said:

- iPad is for fun, not for studying.
- Some do not like the iPad. They like mobile phones and laptop.
- Educational Apps are boring. Games are exciting.
- Nobody told me about LL Apps.
- We do not need Arabic LL apps. We learn it at school.

- Smaller children said:

- Songs are fun.
- I like them. Nicer than book.
- They sang along and moved their heads with the song.

# Advantages

- Mothers reported that the iPad helps children **focus** and **engage** in learning as the Apps are **interactive** and use **color, animation, audio** and **video**.
- Use of **songs** that kids can **easily memorize**.
- Children can **use** and **re-use** the **Apps any time** and as **many times** as they wish.
- Kids **associate concept/word/** sentence with **picture, action**.

# Negative effects of the iPad on LL

- Bad **handwriting**.
- **Writing** letters by hand.
- Some videos contain **inappropriate language** which the child might learn and use without knowing their meanings.
- **Games** are more **attractive** than **educational** Apps.
- Do **not read** anymore.
- Arabic **language loss** because games are in English.
- Some **know** names of some **animals** in **English** but do **not** know them in Arabic.
- More **songs** are in **English**.

# Testimonials

## Lana said:

- Daughter is 2 ys & 4 months.
- In English: She learnt the numbers, color names. She can answer when I quiz her.
- She knows some English letters. Can connect the phoneme (sound) and grapheme (written form) in Eng.
- She knows the shapes (triangle, square, rectangle, circle) and discriminates among them.
- She knows a variety of words.
- She sings (songs about the family, healthy food, how to brush teeth).
- In Arabic, she know the numbers, shapes in MSA. She sings.
- I do not interfere while she is watching, I do not tell her what/what not to watch. I do not impose on her which language to use. It is up to her.
- Eng videos are more attractive than Ar videos, that's why she is more attracted by Eng than Ar videos.

## Reem:

- Child = 8.
- He does not like educational Apps. He feels they are boring.
- He likes games, and watching comedies on You Tube.
- He learnt some English words that recur very often from games and You Tube (fight - punch - like - dislike - subscribe - win – lose).

## Maha said:

- My brother is 5. He watches animal video clips in English on You Tube. He learnt animal names (crocodile, lion, monkey).

## Sara said:

- My son is 3.
- iPade helped him develop oral fluency through kids songs and YouTube.
- In English he know 150 words.

## Ghada said:

- Used to speak standard Arabic then stopped.
- Lived in UK. Watches Cartoons in Italian, Spanish, English.
- Does not like Arabic.
- Goes to international school.

# Conclusion

- The iPad may not seem attractive to children as adults might think.
- Even children have misconceptions about iPad uses.
- Balance between focus on English and Arabic.
- Develop more Apps for older children.
- Parents' guidance at home and teachers' guidance at school are required as technology does not teach by itself.
- Integrate language apps in reading curriculum.
- Introduce parents and children to language learning apps.



# Reading, math Apps



تعليم الحروف العربية  
Mohamed Elw FREE



Arabic Learning  
Marlu Studio FREE



تعليم الحروف العربية  
Mohamed Elw FREE



Kids Learn: Arabic  
Barrow Tech FREE



تعليم اللغة العربية للأطفال  
Arnaout Tech FREE



حروف والأرقام للأطفال  
pixels FREE



تطبيقات اللغة العربية للصفار  
bahrain academi FREE



كتابة الحروف العربية  
S | سنينوس : تطبيقها FREE



المعلم و الطفل العبقري  
EA zein FREE



جدول الضرب للأطفال  
Mohamed Elw FREE



حروف والأرقام للأطفال  
Real Dream FREE



كتابة الأرقام العربية  
S | سنينوس : تطبيقها FREE



# Story Apps



اطفال قبل النوم 2015  
shery apps FREE



قصص الاطفال  
MobiArabia FREE



قصص صوتية للاطفال  
Quiz Andro FREE



قصص للاطفال متنوعة  
Verdo Apps FREE



قصص الاطفال  
gameOne FREE



المضحكة بدون انترنت  
zorogo FREE



قال روعة بدون انترنت  
The Best App FREE



قصص للاطفال الممتعة  
Tamer Mohar FREE



Stories .. Tells the  
RwabeeApp FREE



قصص القرآن للأطفال  
700apps FREE



قصص اطفال متنوعة  
OsamahAsad FREE



قصص ما قبل النوم  
Lisbon Labs FREE



قصص الأطفال



قصص ألف ليلة وليلة



قصص اطفال بدون انترنت



قصص جحا بدون انترنت



قصص الاطفال قبل النوم



Nursery Rhymes

The background is a light pink gradient. There are decorative floral elements in the corners: a cluster of pink flowers in the top-left, a larger cluster of pink flowers in the top-center, and a cluster of white flowers in the bottom-left.

**Thanks**  
**for your attention!**