

### **News Story Summary**

Earlier this year, researchers announced that they discovered that our language development begins before birth. They also discovered that a baby in the womb is capable of bilingual language development. Babies have the ability to hear sounds starting around 26 weeks in the pregnancy where they can hear things like pitch, rhythm, and some speech sounds. A baby is born with the ability to distinguish and make all the sounds of all the languages in the world – that’s around 600 consonants and 200 vowels. Then as a baby grows, the ability to make all the sounds decreases and begins to reflect just the sounds of the languages they are hearing.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the term “bilingual baby brain”.)

### **Focus Attention**

To supplement the Focus Attention idea, share the news story above. Note that in today’s study, we will spend time talking and thinking about language – our speech – especially our ability to control our speech. Then continue with the instructions in Focus Attention.

### **Challenge**

To supplement the Summarize and Challenge ideas, remind the group of the news story about our ability to learn language, even before birth. Stress that words are powerful things. Then lead the group to discuss the question in Ask: *What are some practical ways you can use your words this week to help others?*