

Management Bulletin 23-03 - Attachment B Family Language and Interest Interview

Purpose and Framing

The purpose of this interview is to support relationship building with families with children who are identified as dual language learners and learn more about each child's experiences with language. When adults understand children's past experiences with language(s), they are able to build upon those experiences and better support children's development.

The interview is designed to make families feel comfortable in answering questions about their child and for the program to share the benefits of multilingualism and to encourage families to continue developing their child's home language in the home. The interview includes some resources about the benefits of multilingualism that should be shared with families.

The interview will also support the contractor in:

- Building a relationship and trust with the child's family member(s)
- Learning about children's past experiences with language(s) in order to best support their optimal progress and development in our program
- Helping families understand the benefits of multilingualism and the important role of the home language in supporting English development
- Encouraging families to continue developing their child's home language in the home
- Having a better understanding of the different languages and cultures in the classroom to make program-wide decisions on resources (e.g., purchasing books in the different languages represented by children and families)

Information from interviews with families will be used to inform program curriculum, strategies used in the learning setting, professional development, and to strengthen family partnerships to improve support for dual language learner (DLL) children. It is important to note, as required by *Education Code* Section 8241.5, that DLL identification will serve them only in preschool and is different from any identification process or program supports a child might later receive as an English learner in Transitional Kindergarten (TK) or kindergarten.

Instructions for Staff Conducting the Interview

California State Preschool Programs (CSPP) must understand each child's strengths in, and relationship with, the language(s) they hear, speak, and understand in order to serve all children and their families well.

CSPP programs must conduct this interview in accordance with the requirements specified in California Department of Education Management Bulletin (MB) 23-03.

When administering the interview, CSPP programs can use the following language to reassure and address any parents and families concerned about labeling or stigmatization:

- Identification of your child as a dual language learner in CSPP means that your child will benefit from additional support from the program in order to develop their home language and English language skills. This identification will serve them only in preschool and is different from any identification process or program supports a child might later receive as an English learner in TK or kindergarten.

CSPP programs can use the following language to support a family's understanding of the purpose of the questions and the benefits of multilingualism:

- There are many benefits of being multilingual and we want to highlight how continuing to strengthen the home language will help strengthen your child's education.

For any child who is identified as a DLL, CSPP contractors should provide families with resources on the benefits of strengthening home language and ideas for what they can do at home to support their child's language development after the interview takes place. Some potential talking points include the following:

- There are many benefits of being multilingual and we want to highlight how continuing to strengthen the home language will help strengthen your child's education.
- The brain is most receptive to language learning in the earliest years of life.
- Children are not confused by learning multiple languages; rather, the brain is wired to learn multiple languages in the world.
- Home language is central to developing proficiency in other languages. When a child has a strong foundation in their home language, it makes it easier for them to learn English.
- Multilingualism is associated with benefits in cognitive and socioemotional development, academic achievement, and expanded future career opportunities.
- According to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, early development of both English and the home language is critical for academic success.

Additional information and resources for parents are included at the bottom of this document and at the end of MB 23-03.

Family Language and Interest Interview Questions

1) What are your child's interests and favorite activities? (For example, does your child have favorite stories, books, and songs)

2) What are some strengths you see in your child that we can build on? (For example, do they like to build things, do art, etc.)

3) How can we help support your child's language and development at home? (For example, books to read at home, materials, activity ideas)

4) Young children love to talk, read, sing and are able to learn all the languages around them. Which language(s) does your child speak the most at home?

5) We want to best support your child's language development and understand what language(s) they speak with family members. What language(s) does your child speak with their siblings, grandparents, other family members?

6) Which language(s) does your child speak the most overall? This would be inside and outside of the home combined.

**7) In what language would you prefer to receive written communication from us?
(While we would like to be able to accommodate all requests for written communication in a parent's requested language, our program may not be able to translate written communication materials into that language.)**

**8) In what language would you prefer us to communicate verbally with you?
(While we would like to be able to accommodate all requests for verbal communication in a parent's requested language, our program may not be able to offer translation into that language.)**

Families' questions and concerns:

Resources to share regarding benefits of multilingualism and home language development:

- € Ways to develop your child's bilingualism (Spanish):
<https://www.multilinguallearningtoolkit.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Support-Bilingualism-Spanish-1.pdf>
- € Keeping Your Home Language (available in 16 languages):
<https://cmascanada.ca/2018/05/15/keeping-your-home-language/>
- € Benefits of Multilingualism: <https://ncela.ed.gov/files/announcements/20200805-NCELAInfographic-508.pdf>