

# POLL FAMILY SUPPORTS

## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FAMILY LANGUAGES AND INTERESTS INTERVIEW



The Family Languages and Interests Interview was developed as the first step in knowing how to plan targeted rich language learning experiences for young dual and multilingual learners.

To plan intentionally for dual and multilingual learners, the interview was specifically designed to help providers:

- Start an ongoing conversation with family members who know the child best.
- Establish a trusted connection by welcoming families and inviting a partnership.
- Understand the family’s hopes and goals for the child.
- Learn about the interests, abilities, and languages of the child and how the child operates within the family unit.
- Elicit volunteers, utilize language modeling, and support the use of shared strategies across both family and child care settings.

The interview is a tool for providers to gather key information in the family’s language of preference, to listen, interact, and bond with the family and determine the types of family, environmental, and instructional supports that will be utilized in developing the child’s home and English language skills.

Some of the key questions asked in the interview provide information on who speaks with the child, what languages are used, and how often each language is used.

**Example:** What family members live with the child? Who is the child’s primary caregiver? What language does the primary caregiver speak most often with the child?

This is important information so providers can understand the family’s language preferences and goals around home language use and English. Providers can then plan for language instruction and experiences that promote those goals.

Other key questions provide important information on the child's strengths and interests.

**Example:** What special talents or interests does your child have?

This question helps providers plan meaningful and connected learning experiences that motivate the child and value and build on the child's strengths.

Using the Family Languages and Interests Interview will help establish a partnership with families and emphasizes their critical role in contributing to the cultural and linguistic richness of the child care setting. Providers use the information learned from the interview to plan targeted support for home language and English language growth and development.

## RESOURCES:

To learn more about the Family Languages and Interests Interview, see the Family Supports section at <https://www.pollstrategies.org>