

POLL FAMILY SUPPORTS

USING THE FAMILY LANGUAGES AND INTERESTS INTERVIEW



Using the Family Languages and Interests Interview is the first step in partnering with families and knowing how to plan targeted rich language learning experiences for young dual and multilingual learners. Whether you serve dual and multilingual children in home, center, or community-based settings, you can use the interview to plan intentionally for rich language learning experiences.

IT WILL HELP YOU...

- 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 language goals for the child.
- Learn about the interests, abilities, and languages of the child and how the child operates within the family unit.

CONSIDERATIONS – PREPARING FOR AND CONDUCTING THE FAMILY LANGUAGES AND INTERESTS INTERVIEW:

- Set up a time to meet in person with family members/primary caregivers. If you don't speak the language of the family, invite a colleague or community member to attend and interpret for you.
- Welcome the family to your program and have some positive words to share about the child and/or excitement about the year ahead.
- Let the family know that you are interested in learning about their child and have some questions that will help you get to know them better, what hopes they hold, and their language goals for their child.
- Share some research that being bilingual is a strength and that what you learn about their language goals will help you plan for language learning opportunities that will support those goals.
- Ask their permission to take notes during the interview that will be used for planning and checking in with them throughout the year.

- Use the time to acknowledge and appreciate what they share and to tell them about your program, what to expect, and the strategies you will use to support and develop both home and English language skills.
- Introduce them to your POLL Communications Board where they can see each week what their child will be learning, key vocabulary and concepts, and activities they can do at home to reinforce concepts in home language and English.
- Invite families to share their language and culture through songs, books, and special activities.

Remember to revisit the interview as part of your ongoing check-ins with families throughout the year. Staying connected on the child's language goals will allow you to adjust as needed.

RESOURCES:

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