



Interview Example Questions

Introduction

The following is a guide with example questions and how you may proceed during a family interview, the second step of the Identification Process. These example questions are not exhaustive and do not cover all possibilities. The interview will help districts/schools understand the extent of a language influence, and student and family needs for language support. Please be sure to be informed if the family is in need of translation services, as EL families are legally entitled to information about their child's schooling in a language they understand.

To begin with, the interviewee should introduce yourself and your position in the district. It is important to explain the purpose of the interview and the background information of why they were chosen for a family interview: because they marked a language other than English on the Home Survey, you are following up to understand the extent of a language influence, and student and family needs for language support. Encourage parents to mention anything they would like to say and to ask questions. It is critical for parents to know that we are working together to understand the language and needs of their child. Information from the child's previous records and current state of the child's progress, strengths, and weaknesses can be shared with the family. If parents have more questions, please refer to the student's teacher(s). It is also important to introduce the family to the EL program and the support it provides the student. This list is by no means exhaustive but gives an idea of questions that may be asked during an interview.

Language (review the questions and answers on the HLS)

1. Review the questions and answers on the HLS to gather the extent of language influence.
2. What language did your child learn when he/she first began communicating?
3. What language does your child most frequently use at home?
4. What language is used by you and your family most frequently at home?
5. What is the student's history with English and/or another language?
6. How much English or another language does your child know?
7. How long has your child been learning English or designated as EL?
8. How has your child learned a language? What resources have been useful/necessary?
9. Things the student is working on (ex: not worried when speaking in front of others) or goals they have?
10. What is your child's level of confidence or feelings towards the English language including how they feel about speaking it, studying it, past feelings, present feelings and more.
11. Does the child speak clearly at home? (Give examples of speech errors they might have seen)
12. Does your child read at home? Difficulties? Language books are in?

Social, Cultural and Family History (replace “the child” with their name when possible)

13. Who does the child live with? (parents, siblings, extended family, etc.)
14. Where was the child born?
15. How long has the child lived in the U.S.?
16. Are there individual or family circumstances that may explain certain student behaviors?
17. What are the child’s hobbies and interests?
18. Tell me about your child? How would you describe them?
19. How does your child approach homework? Issues? Concerns?

School History

20. Did the child attend preschool? Where? What kind of program?
21. Has your child attended school outside of the United States? Explain/Describe.
22. Where has your child attended school in the U.S? Explain/Describe.
23. How is your child’s school attendance? Does the family take long vacations or return to their native country? (Look for the frequency of absences in the past).