

Working with Interpreters

Some words of advice from interpreters and early childhood professionals.

- ~ Remember, when working with interpreters that the interpreter is part of your professional team. Each member of the team comes with important knowledge and skills.
- ~There are many languages in each country. Be mindful to ask, 'Was that the right language?'
- ~Allow time for a brief conversation before each session with your interpreter to discuss goals and expectations. This is essential for an effective session. (See pre-session tips on back)
- ~ Using a consistent interpreter for each family is ideal. On the other hand, the parent may not tell you if they cannot understand an interpreter. Sometimes, in the beginning, bring a new interpreter and then ask the parent which one works better for them.
- ~It is particularly important for a child to have the same interpreter throughout the year. For a young child, it may be ideal to have a bi-lingual paraprofessional with child development knowledge.
- ~Keep in mind that a child does not differentiate between a professional and a non-professional relationship and the professional interpreting stance can be confusing for a young child.
- ~Use interpreters to help build a positive connection between home and school. Be mindful when your only communication with the family is when issues arise.
- ~Consider creating opportunities to build relationships between families and interpreters by holding activities or events where both families and interpreters are participants.

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