

In-Depth Family Socio-Cultural Interview

Resource copied from Oakland Schools Materials

Student Name: _____ **Date of Birth:** _____

Person(s) being Interviewed: _____ **Date:** _____

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Who lives in the home with the student?

Name	Age	Birth Place/ Birth Country	Native Language	Years in Native Country	Places lived in US	Schooling (public, private, highest grade)	Language of Literacy

Do parents work? Where? How long have they maintained this job?

Has either parent had any formal English classes?

Who takes care of the student after school? What language is spoken?

What language(s) is/are written and read in the home?

How much contact does the family have with their native country? (trips, letters, telephone contact...)

Has the child ever lived away from the parents?

Where has the student attended school?

How many years of schooling has the student received in a language other than English?

In what language has the student been educated?

Does the student attend another school, community programs or tutoring? If so, what programs?

Does either parent have any history of learning problems?

What do the child's family members think about her difficulties?

LANGUAGE SURVEY MATRIX

To get a sense of the child or student’s personal linguistic context and experience in the home, determine who speaks what language to whom, and how often. On the matrix below, list the names of all the people living in the home across the top (listing the student last) and then down the side of the matrix in the same order (again, listing the student last)

1. Note any communication mismatches (e.g.: interactions where communication exchanges hampered because 2 communication partners don’t share the same language)
2. Note the percentage of receptive language experience in each language available to the student
3. Note the percentage of expressive language experience in each language available to the student

Does the student show any language preference?

Does the student ever help interpret for other family members?

BIRTH & DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY

Tell us about your pregnancy with your child (prenatal care, full term, complications with delivery, ...):

Did your child pass the newborn hearing screening?

What was your child’s weight at birth?

How long did you have to stay in the hospital?

Were any follow-up visits to the hospital/doctor’s office recommended?

How old was your child when he/she first began to:

- crawl? _____
- walk? _____
- talk? _____
- speak in complete sentences? _____

How does he/she compare to other children in your family?

Did anything about your child's development surprise you?

Does your child usually do things quickly or slowly?

Would he/she rather watch or participate in activities?

What concerns did you have as he/she was growing up?

Did you child have any major illnesses, injuries, lost consciousness, high fevers, ear infections, operations growing up?

Is he/she taking any medication now? In the past?

Has your child had his/her vision and hearing checked recently?

	Home/ Other Language	English	About Equal	Code Switching/ Mixed Code	Neither
What language does your child seem to understand?					
What language is your child able to hold a conversation in?					
Which language did your child first learn to speak?					
At what age did your child first speak in native language?					
At what age did your child first hear and speak English?					
Which language does your child speak when playing by him/herself?					
Which language does your child prefer when watching television?					
Which language does your child prefer when listening to the radio?					
Which language do you use when disciplining your child?					
Which language do you use when helping your child with homework?					
In what language does your child speak when he/she is hurt or upset?					
In which language are most of the print materials (books, magazines, newspapers) you receive in your home?					
Does anyone read to your child at home? If yes, in what language?					
Based on the above information, which seems to be the dominant language in your home?					
Which seems to be the dominant language of your child?					

PRIMARY (L1) LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

When did your child first learn to talk?

Were you ever concerned about your child's primary language development?

Did people have a hard time understanding your child before age 4?

Is the child's primary language development any different from your other children? How?

Describe the quality of your child's primary language...

- Does he/she speak in full sentences, or is speech short and choppy?
- Did he/she learn letters and numbers in your primary language?
- Do you clearly understand your child's primary language?
- Does your child understand you when you speak in your primary language?
- Does your child avoid talking in your primary language?

BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SURVEY

How would you describe your child's behavior as an infant, toddler, young child, and now?

Is he/she able to follow household rules?

What responsibilities does he/she have at home?

What seems to motivate him/her?

What does he/she complain about most often?

What does he/she prefer to do in his/her free time?

How well does he/she sleep at night?

Does your child have any friends at school? At home?

What are your child's strengths?

EDUCATIONAL SURVEY

Did your child go to preschool or Head Start? Where?

What schools has he/she attended?

Has his/her attendance been regular or irregular? Were there any gaps in educational experience or prolonged absences?

Does he/she need extra help with his/her schoolwork? Who provides this help?

What does he/she seem to enjoy most about school?

What is the most frustrating thing about school for him/her?

What is your child best at? (in school... at home...)

What does he/she struggle with the most?

What are you most proud of about your child?

What concerns you the most?

What are your hopes and dreams for him/her?

What do you think needs to be done at school to help him/her?

Is there anything else that we didn't ask that you think is important for us to know about your child?

Interviewer: _____

Date of Interview: _____