



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent

**Caregiver Interview for Determining Student's
Language Dominance and Past School History**
July, 2022

District/School:

Student's Name:

Dear Parent or Guardian,

In order to provide your child with the best education possible, we need to know about his/her language and education background. There are no right or wrong answers to the questions below. Your honesty and thoughtfulness in answering these questions is greatly appreciated and will directly benefit your child's education.

About your child:

If there is more than one language spoken in your house, please feel free to include them all in your answers.

When your child was a baby:

1. What language did you speak to your child when he/she was a baby or young child?
2. In what language did your child say his/her first words?
3. In what language did your child speak as a baby or young child?
4. What language did other people in your house (other caregivers, babysitters, siblings, relatives) speak to your child when he/she was a baby or young child?
5. What language did you use to sing and/or read to your child when he/she was a baby or young child?

At the present time:

1. What language was spoken in the child's home most of the time?
2. What language do you mostly use to speak to your child now?
3. What language does your child mostly speak to you?
4. What language does your child prefer to speak to others (siblings, caregivers, babysitters, relatives)?
5. When you have to give your child directions quickly which language do you use?

Other School Experiences:

1. Did your child attend preschool? _____ If yes, what was the language used by the teachers?

For students entering school in a grade other than kindergarten:

1. Does your child know how to read? _____ If yes, in what language?
Does your child know how to write? _____ If yes, in what language?
Does your child know how to read and write in his/her first language?
2. Is this the first time the child has attended a school in the United States?
3. If not, where did he/she go to school previously? _____ What language was used for instruction?
4. Was there an interruption in your child's education? If so, for how long?

For students entering school in a grade other than kindergarten: (cont.)

5. Was your child in a rural or urban setting?
6. What was the length of the school day?
7. Did your child attend school daily/consistently?
8. In what month did the school year begin?
9. In what month did the school year end?
10. When were school vacations?
11. Has your child ever had difficulties learning? If yes, please explain briefly
12. Has your child ever received special services (teachers) to help his/her learning?
If yes, please explain briefly
13. Is there anything more you would like to tell us about your child's prior school experience?

Adapted from CAPELL Connecticut Administrators of Programs for English learners:
<https://ctserc.org/documents/resources/CT-ELL-and-Special-Education.pdf>