

Assessing Children Whose First Language is not English

Allow enough time for the assessments. Do the first language and second language assessments on different days (no less than a week apart).

Make sure the family are happy for an interpreter to be used.

Make sure you have the correct language and exact dialect before booking the interpreter.

Remember.
It is not appropriate to use family members or children to translate or interpret.

Check whether the gender of the interpreter is appropriate. It may not be appropriate for a female to have a male interpreter.

Before assessing a bilingual child

Make sure you have time with the interpreter prior to the session to discuss the format of the session and your expectations of the interpreter.

Discuss the importance of confidentiality with the interpreter.



When collecting a sample of language in the child's first language, ask the interpreter to scribe in this language.

Take a full case history for the child and complete a pre assessment information form with the family

Take into account any utterances containing English and first language when looking at mean length of utterance.

