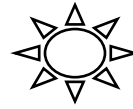


Section for Parents and Caregivers Language



The DVD chapter on language addresses the following topics:

- Parents' views on the language barrier
- Immigrant families' experiences accessing information about their children's schooling
- The school's role in helping parents understand the language of the school
- The role of the Settlement Worker
- Strategies to overcome language barriers

Questions to consider before viewing:

- What resources are available to help you to become proficient in the language used by the school community?
- Are these resources accessible to you?
- What community organizations exist in the school neighbourhood to help you in settling into your new [school] environment?
- Do you have access to translated materials (newsletters, school policies, classroom books, etc.)?
- Do you have access to a translator?

Questions to consider after viewing:

- How might the school establish and maintain communication with parents who are not proficient in English?
- What can you do to make sure that you receive the appropriate information at all times?
- Is there an atmosphere of trust and approachability that encourages open lines of communication between you and your child's school?
- What strategies can you try to get the information you need about your child's education?

Activity: What are my Options?

Time: 20 minutes

Materials: Pen/pencil, “Family to Do Checklist” handout

Objective: To understand all the different options you have to help you communicate with your child’s school.

Procedure: Complete the “Family to Do Checklist.” Any unchecked boxes are ideas you can try in your child’s school.

Family to Do Checklist

Read the strategy.

If you have tried this strategy, put an (X) in the box.

If you have not tried this strategy leave the box empty and go to the next strategy.

- Involve all family members in supporting your child's schooling. For example, an older brother or sister may read to a younger child; it would benefit both of them.
- Go to the local library and find out if there are any resources available in your language.
- Keep asking teachers and other school staff questions. Don't be afraid to ask about your child's progress, and about the curriculum, school functions, reasons for actions taken by the school, volunteering in school or at home, and any other questions that you have.
- Find someone (other than one of your children) to be an interpreter if you need to speak to a teacher or principal. If you cannot find an interpreter on your own, request one from the school.
- Get to know other parents in your child's school. Changes in the school are most likely to occur if parents act together.
- Go to the Settlement.org website to find multilingual resources about your education in Ontario - <http://www.settlement.org/site/ED/>

If you have an (X) in all the boxes you are aware of all your options.

If you have some empty boxes, try them the next time you get a chance.