

# Cultural Family Interview

## Directions for use

Caregivers/Teachers can pick and choose questions from this list that are relevant to the particular family they are serving. These questions are meant as guidance to conduct an informal interview geared toward cultural and general information gathering to assist in screening, assessment, eligibility determination for disabilities services, or instructional planning.

(\* denotes recommendation to insert the child's name or a familiar regionally and colloquially appropriate word here)

## Section I: Family Constellation

Who is in your family?

Explain how a big decision is made in your family?

Tell us about who takes care of your children (\*kids, son, daughter)?

## Section II: Cultural Beliefs and Child Rearing Practices

### FAMILY ROLES

Who helps you take care of your children\* in your family?

### CHILD EXPECTATIONS

1. How would you describe a child\* that is well cared for?
2. Describe how you think your child\* learns new things.
3. What would you like for your child\* to learn now?
4. Do you think your child\* might need help with learning new things or with talking?
5. Is your child\* able to get around the house and get around outside like other children you know?
6. What do you think your child\* needs to be successful and have the opportunities you would like to see him/her have?

### VIEWS ON YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT

1. Describe what special gifts your child\* brings to your family?
2. What worries or concerns do you have for your child\*?
3. Describe the services or the people who help you when you have concerns about your child\*?
4. Describe the future you see for your child\*.
5. How do you expect your child\* will do in child care/school?
6. What would you like to see your child\* doing once he/she completes high school?



English       Spanish       Both       Other language – please specify\_\_\_\_\_

3. What languages do **other people at home** use with your child? (*Check one*)

English       Spanish       Both       Other language – please specify\_\_\_\_\_

4. What languages does **your child** use when talking at home? (*Check one*)

English       Spanish       Both       Other language – please specify\_\_\_\_\_

5. With what language is your child **most comfortable** now? (*Check one*)

English       Spanish       Both       Other language – please specify\_\_\_\_\_

Barrera, I. & Kramer, L. (2009). *Using skilled dialogue to transform challenging interactions: Honoring identity, voice, & connection*. Baltimore: Brookes

Lynch, E.W., & Hanson, M.J. (2012). *Developing cross-cultural competence: A guide for working with children and their families* (4th ed.). Baltimore: Brookes.