

**NJ Department of Education  
Division of Early Childhood Education**

**Preschool Guidance**

**Preschool Home Language Survey Model**

The home language survey should be included at the time of registration for **all** families to determine if another language is spoken in the home. Any child who speaks a language other than English at home is considered an English language learner (ELL), in need of language support in the home language(s), even if he or she understands and speaks some English. The home language survey should be completed by the primary caregiver (with translators available, if and when needed). It is designed to help school administrators and teachers know how to best support the child and families.

Additionally, as specified in N.J.A.C. 6A:15, Bilingual Education Code: *“The district board of education shall also use age-appropriate methodologies to identify limited English proficient preschool students in order to determine their individual language development needs.”* If the home language survey indicates the primary language is other than English, it should be followed up with an individual conversation between the teacher and the primary caregivers to develop a better understanding of the child’s home language environment; and to help families understand the school district’s linguistic, social-emotional and academic goals for the children. The home language survey and information gleaned from family conversations should also be used by preschool teachers to inform instruction that addresses the linguistic needs of each child.

## Preschool Home Language Survey Parent/Guardian Questionnaire

**PLEASE PRINT**

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
(first) (middle) (last)

Date of school entrance: \_\_\_\_\_

Person completing the survey:  Mother  Father  Grandparent  Guardian  Other

Please tell us about your child:

1. What language did the child learn when he/she first began to talk? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What language does the family speak at home most of the time? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What language (s) does the primary caregiver (s) speak to the child most of the time? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What language (s) does the child speak to his/her primary caregiver (s) most of the time? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What language (s) does the child speak to his/her brothers and sisters most of the time? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What language does the child speak to his/her friends most of the time? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Please list any preschool program(s) your child attended before coming to our program:  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. In which language do you wish to receive information from the school? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What name do you use for your child (if different from above)? \_\_\_\_\_

Sources:

Questions 1 – 8 are based on the *NJ DOE Home Language Survey* that was adapted from the sample survey in *A Manual for Community Representatives of the Title VI Steering Committee*, published 9/76 by the Institute for Cultural Pluralism, Lau General Assistance Center, San Diego University, San Diego, CA 92182

Question 9 was adapted from the Parent Questionnaire in *One Child, Two Languages 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* published 2/2008 by Patton O. Tabors, Paul H. Brookes Publishing