

Assessing Young Dual Language Learners: *Why Assess in Both Languages?*

Use these ideas and questions to build on what you've learned and extend your practice.

THINK ABOUT IT!

- **Self-Reflection**

Use these questions to think about your own practice.

- **Reflect with Others**

Supervisors, directors, coaches, and teachers/providers can be reflective partners.

- **The Power of Practice**

Invite a colleague to join you; observe or record each other and share ideas.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS

- How do I assess young dual language learners in my care?
- Why should I be cautious in making interpretations based on my observations, especially when I do not speak the child's home language?
- What might I miss if I observe and document a young dual language learner's skills and knowledge in only one language?
- When and how should I partner with someone else to observe and document children's learning and development?
- What should I keep in mind while considering who I will partner with to assess the young dual language learners in my care?

TRY IT OUT!

Identify a dual language learner in your group whose home language you do not speak. Choose a specific skill or behavior you would like to observe and a time of day when the child is likely to demonstrate that skill or behavior. Invite someone who knows the child and speaks the child's home language to observe the child with you. During the observation, ask yourself:

- What can I learn about this child from this observation?
- What specific questions will I ask my assessment partner to learn more about this skill or behavior the child demonstrates?
- How can I use this opportunity to learn more about the child's thoughts, feelings, and knowledge?

After you and your assessment partner observe the child, have a conversation with your assessment partner to compare notes.

How Did It Go?

Reflect on your experience. What did you learn about the child from the observation? What new information did your assessment partner provide? What might you try next time? Why?

What Next?

Continue to reflect on your process for observing young dual language learners. Check out the next pack, *Observation and Documentation of Young Dual Language Learners*, to learn specific strategies for assessing young dual language learners.