

How will my child be assessed?

Children whose knowledge or skills cannot be assessed if they do not know English. This is an important concern. New York State, Prekindergarten programs invest in multilingual resources to help assess these children. These resources include translated assessments and interpretation services.

Prekindergarten teachers are also able to assess children through classroom observation. They can see what children have mastered and what they are still learning through their behaviors and use of materials. Telling the teacher what children can do at home also allows the teacher to better understand them.

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No. Bilingual and multilingual individuals, even children, can use words in multiple languages to express themselves. Sometimes they will combine languages as they speak but this is not a sign of confusion. It is not necessary to force the child to separate languages. Instead, adults at home can continue to use the home language with the child to continue building vocabulary and other language skills. The child will also combine languages in school, and the teacher will also allow the child to use the home language as they are learning English.

When your child brings home projects or assignments to do together, it is helpful to complete them using your home language. In this way, your child does not have to be limited to using the words they know in English. You can reinforce what they learn in English at school.

