

Caution: When considering a language referral for a student whose first language is not English, REMEMBER the following guidelines.

1. It is expected to take 1-2 years of exposure to English for the child to achieve BICS (Basic Interpersonal Communication skills)
2. It is expected to take 5-10 years of exposure to English for the child to achieve CALPS (Academic Language Proficiency Skills).

[BILINGUAL]
CONVERSATIONAL LANGUAGE CHECKLIST

1. _____ Does the student's conversational speech sound like the speech of other students from a similar cultural/linguistic background?
2. _____ Is the student able to ask/answer in the native language? In English?
3. _____ Is the student able to take turns speaking in the native language? In English?
4. _____ Does the student appear to have word finding problems in the native language? In English?
5. _____ Is the student able to name basic vocabulary and concepts in the native language? In English?
6. _____ Is the student able to tell a story in the native language? In English?

Is the student able to re-tell a story in the native language? In English?

Is the student able to answer questions about a story in the native language? In English?
7. _____ Is the student able to predict outcomes in the native language? In English?
8. _____ Is the student able to give/follow directions in the native language? In English?
9. _____ Is the student able to ask the speaker for clarification in the native language? In English?
10. _____ Is the student able to maintain a topic while speaking in the native language? In English?
11. _____ Is the student able to express feelings and opinions in the native language? In English?
12. _____ Is the student's syntax appropriate in the native language?
13. _____ Is the student's pronunciation appropriate in the native language?

(Clausen, Goldstein, LeNeve, Lefy, Wing, 1992)