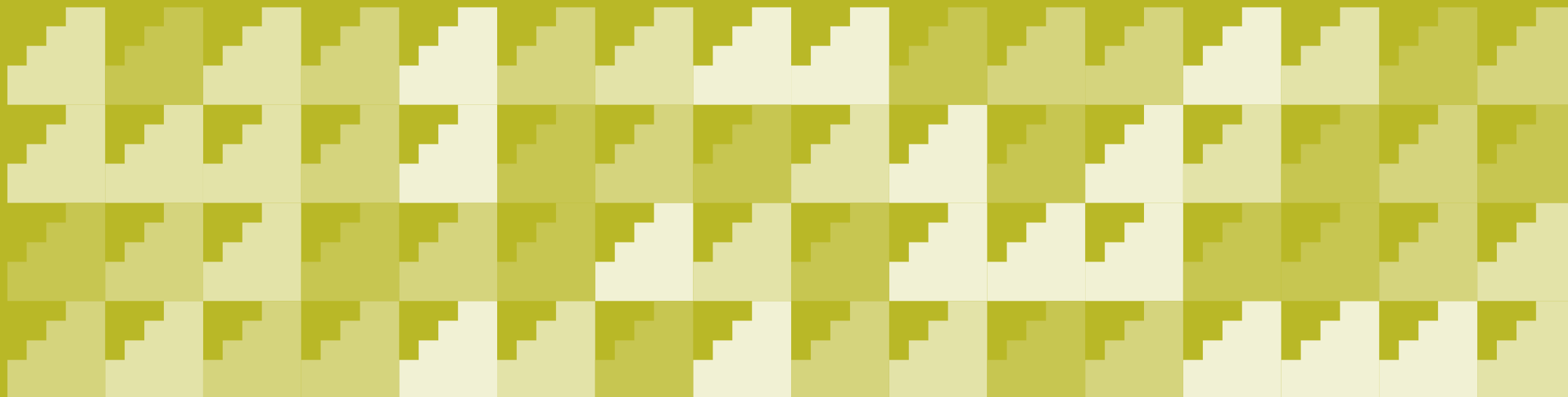


Information for Interpreters



Supporting the speech, language and communication needs of multilingual children

- Language and communication skills are essential for children's development and wellbeing.
 - Communication skills are fundamental to developing relationships, play skills, social interactions and learning.
 - Without these skills, children can experience difficulties in many areas of their lives including doing well at school, mental health and wellbeing, job opportunities and forming relationships.
 - You have been asked to interpret for a speech, language and communication sessions and the requirements from you will be different to other types of work.
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What is Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT)?

- Speech and Language Therapy Teams are experts in supporting children and young people who have speech, language and communication difficulties.
 - They also work with children who have difficulties eating and drinking.
 - They provide assessment of a child's needs and different treatment options to support the people and places that are important in the child's life as well as delivering interventions to develop the child's skills.
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SaLTs support:

- Attention and listening
 - Play
 - A child's ability to understand language (comprehension)
 - A child's ability to express themselves using age appropriate vocabulary grammar
 - Speech sounds (how clear they sound when they are talking)
 - Social skills (how they interact with others)
 - Fluency (whether or not they stammer)
 - Voice disorders
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When a SaLT talks about 'language', they are **not** looking at whether a child is learning English or any other language. Instead, they consider the **child's ability to learn any language efficiently.**

- It is not the language that they speak that is of most importance to a SaLT, it is how they are developing their understanding and use of their core language learning skills.
 - SaLT's work closely with parents, carers and other professionals such as teachers, social workers or other health visitors.
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What do Early Years Practitioners (EYP) do?

An early year's practitioner's roles and responsibilities include:

- Encouraging learning and development, through play and teaching.
 - Creating a secure environment.
 - Use imagination to help children to learn.
 - Work with parents to support their children.
 - EYPs also play a vital role in developing children's speech, language and communication skills and you could be asked to support them in having a conversation with a family or in translating a session to help a child learn.
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Why is this job different from other interpreting work?

You might notice some differences in what we ask of you compared with other interpreting jobs:

- This is because we need to know **exactly what a child is saying, including the words and grammar** they are using, rather than just the message they are conveying.
 - It is important that you **do not analyse or summarise** what a child or parent is saying.
 - This detailed information allows us to write treatment plans that will support the development of the child's communication skills.
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