

Profile of a child

Week 1

In this activity, you will build up a profile of a fictional child, adding to it as you progress through the course and answering questions about them that relate to each section of learning. You'll be prompted at each stage when to return to this worksheet and develop the profile and, as you discover the wide variety of factors that affect multilingual children's language development, you'll choose circumstances for your fictional child and reflect on how they might impact their language proficiency. The purpose is to apply what you've learnt and start to consider the kind of support you might provide. You're welcome to do more than one!

1. Pick a country for your child to come from, and countries for their parents to come from. Describe the family and societal contexts they are growing up in – which languages are spoken and by whom?

2. Is your child's multilingual identity valued and nurtured

- at school?
- at home?
- by society more widely?

Where might your child feel most valued and comfortable speaking their heritage language? How might this affect their sense of identity?

3. What is your child's school environment like?

- Are many different languages spoken or only a few?
- How does the school support multilingual children?
- Does the child and/or school also access support from a speech and language therapist?

Take action!

Describe one action you might take to enhance/validate your child's sense of multilingual identity