

CHILDHOOD BILINGUALISM QUESTIONNAIRES: A REVIEW

There is a wide range of questionnaires developed by researchers to collect information on a child's bilingual experience. The variety of questionnaires can make it difficult to compare data and link research and practice. The Q-BEx team looked at the questionnaires in more detail to see what exists, what measures are used, and how the measures are used.

HOW IS THIS USEFUL FOR TEACHERS?

Teachers need to collect accurate and reliable information on their learner's language background.

The findings of this review may contribute to informing best practice in schools.

1



48 questionnaires identified

- We identified 48 questionnaires currently used to document bilingual experience in children.
- These questionnaires are usually completed by parents/carers, although some are completed by teachers or children themselves.

2

3 overarching constructs

From 32 common to all questionnaires, we focussed on the following 3 (due to their importance):

- Language exposure & use
- Language activities
- Current language skills



3

Huge variability

- We found a large amount of variation in the type of information collected and in the way in which questions are asked.
- Language 'exposure' and 'use' are sometimes not separated, but grouped together. In other questionnaires, they might be asked about separately.
- There was also variation in how information was quantified (e.g. 1-5 scales, adverbs, open questions)



This variability makes data comparability difficult across different studies.

For teachers wanting to use an existing questionnaire – rather than creating their own – it may be difficult to decide which one to choose and why.

Following a consensus study with teachers, SLTs and researchers, the Q-BEx team has now developed a new questionnaire that addresses these issues of consistency and transparency.

What next?

- As of November 2021 we are recruiting schools to take part in a validation study of the Q-BEx questionnaire.

Find out more:

- www.q-bex.org
- www.twitter.com/QBexProject

If you would like to read the full paper, an edited summary, it is available here:

- [Full paper](#)
- [Summary](#)