Alberta Language Environment Questionnaire (ALEQ)

Name / Participant Code: _____

Date of birth of target child: _____

Gender of target child: _____

Date of interview: _____

Interpreter or broker (*if any*) / Research Assistant: _____

 "target child" – can use the child's name in the oral interview

	Age at Test				Age of Arrival				Months of Exposure
	Year	Month	Day			Year	Month	Day	*Copy from page 8*
Date of Testing	____	____	____		Date of Arrival	____	____	____	
Date of Birth	____	____	____		Date of Birth	____	____	____	
Chronological age	____	____	____		Chronological age	____	____	____	

A. Questions to the target child's MOTHER:

1a. How many years have you been in Canada? _____ Approximate date of arrival (month/year)?	Converts to months:

1b. Did the target child come to Canada at the same time?   Yes   No
 	
     If not, when did the target child come to Canada?
 	
  Note: If mother/parents came to Canada before the child was born, was the child born in Canada?   Yes   No
	Date of Arrival (use to calculate age of arrival above):

2. How much English do you speak? (Parental self-rating)

0 **Not Fluent in English**	1 **Limited Fluency in English**	2 **Somewhat Fluent in English**	3 **Quite Fluent in English**	4 **Very Fluent in English**
No understanding or speaking ability	Some understanding and can say short, simple sentences	Good understanding and can express myself on many topics	Can understand and use English adequately for work and most other situations	Understand almost everything. Very comfortable expressing myself in English in all situations
	e.g. can answer the phone in English	*e.g.* can go to the doctor and explain what is wrong	*e.g.* can communicate effectively with teachers at parent teacher interviews; could work in the service-industry; can follow movies or television shows	

    Comments/descriptions of the abilities in English:

Language Index: ENG = English; MT = Mother Tongue

3. What language(s) do you speak with the target child?

0	1	2	3	4
ENG never MT always	ENG seldom MT usually	ENG 50% MT 50%	ENG usually MT seldom	ENG almost always MT almost never

Score: /4

Include in Language Use Score (on page 7)

4. What language(s) does the target child speak with his/her mother?

0	1	2	3	4
ENG never MT always	ENG seldom MT usually	ENG 50% MT 50%	ENG usually MT seldom	ENG almost always MT almost never

Score: /4

Include in Language Use Score (on page 7)

5. What language do you speak *most often* with the other people in your home?

0	4
Most Mother Tongue	Mostly English

Score: /4

Enter as a variable in the Data File

6a. Do you work outside the home?   Yes   No
    Or are you a student?

6b. If yes, is the language of the workplace/school English?

0	1	2	3	4
ENG never MT always	ENG seldom MT usually	ENG 50% MT 50%	ENG usually MT seldom	ENG almost always MT almost never

Score: /4

7. How many years of education do you have (including home country and Canada)?

Education	Completed?		Years of School
Primary	Yes	No	6
Secondary	Yes	No	6
College	Yes	No	2
University – Degree	Yes	No	4
University – Master	Yes	No	2
University – PhD	Yes	No	4

Please note any other educational experiences here:

Language Index: ENG = English; MT = Mother Tongue

B. Questions to the target child's FATHER

8.   How many years have you been in Canada? _____

      Approximate date of arrival (month/year)?

9.   How much English do you speak? (Parental self-rating)

0 Not Fluent in English	1 Limited Fluency in English	2 Somewhat Fluent in English	3 Quite Fluent in English	4 Very Fluent in English
No understanding or speaking ability	Some understanding and can say short, simple sentences	Good understanding and can express myself on many topics	Can understand and use English adequately for work and most other situations	Understand almost everything. Very comfortable expressing myself in English in all situations
	e.g. can answer the phone in English	*e.g.* can go to the doctor and explain what is wrong	*e.g.* can communicate effectively with teachers at parent teacher interviews; could work in the service-industry; can follow movies or television shows	

      Comments/descriptions of the abilities in English:

10.   What language(s) do you speak with the target child?

0 ENG never MT always	1 ENG seldom MT usually	2 ENG 50% MT 50%	3 ENG usually MT seldom	4 ENG almost always MT almost never

Score: /4

Include in Language Use Score (on page 7)

11.   What language(s) does the target child speak with his/her father?

0 ENG never MT always	1 ENG seldom MT usually	2 ENG 50% MT 50%	3 ENG usually MT seldom	4 ENG almost always MT almost never

Score: /4

Include in Language Use Score (on page 7)

Language Index: ENG = English; MT = Mother Tongue

12. What language do you speak *most often* with the other people in your home?

0	4
Most Mother Tongue	**Mostly English**

Score: /4

Enter as a variable in the Data File

13a.   Do you work outside the home?   Yes   No
        Or are you a student?

13b.   If yes, is the language of the workplace/school English?

0	1	2	3	4
ENG never MT always	**ENG seldom MT usually**	**ENG 50% MT 50%**	**ENG usually MT seldom**	**ENG almost always MT almost never**

Score: /4

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14. How many years of education do you have (in home country and in Canada)?

Education	Completed?		Years of School
Primary	Yes	No	6
Secondary	Yes	No	6
College	Yes	No	2
University – Degree	Yes	No	4
University – Master	Yes	No	2
University – PhD	Yes	No	4

Please note any other educational experiences here:

Language Index: ENG = English; MT = Mother Tongue

C. Questions to parents about OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS in the home

15a. Are there other adult relatives in the home? For example, a grandmother? Yes No 15b. If yes, how many? _____	
16. If yes, is one of these adults the child's primary caregiver? Yes No	**If yes, proceed to question 17 and 18. If no, skip to question 19.**
17. If yes, what language(s) does the primary caregiver speak with the target child?	**Score: /4** **Include in Language Use Score (on page 7)**

0	1	2	3	4
ENG never MT always	**ENG seldom MT usually**	**ENG 50% MT 50%**	**ENG usually MT seldom**	**ENG almost always MT almost never**

18. If applicable, what language(s) does the target child speak with the primary caregiver?	**Score: /4** **Include in Language Use Score (on page 7)**

0	1	2	3	4
ENG never MT always	**ENG seldom MT usually**	**ENG 50% MT 50%**	**ENG usually MT seldom**	**ENG almost always MT almost never**

19a. If there are other adults in the home (who are not the primary caregiver), do they regularly interact with the target child? Yes No 19b. If yes, what language(s) does the adult relative(s) speak with the target child?	**Score: /4** **Include in Language Use Score (on page 7)** *If there is more than one adult in this category, record a value for each adult.*

0	1	2	3	4
ENG never MT always	**ENG seldom MT usually**	**ENG 50% MT 50%**	**ENG usually MT seldom**	**ENG almost always MT almost never**

20. If applicable, what language(s) does the target child speak with the adult relative(s) (who are not the primary care giver)?	**Score: /4** **Include in Language Use Score (on page 7)** *If there is more than one adult in this category, record a value for each adult.*

0	1	2	3	4
ENG never MT always	**ENG seldom MT usually**	**ENG 50% MT 50%**	**ENG usually MT seldom**	**ENG almost always MT almost never**

Language Index: ENG = English; MT = Mother Tongue

| 21. | Does the target child have brothers or sisters? | Yes | No |

If yes, answer questions 22-27

22. Sibling 1:   Older   Younger

Gender: M   F

Date of Birth: _____

23.   What language(s) does Sibling 1 speak with the target child?

0	1	2	3	4	
ENG never MT always	ENG seldom MT usually	ENG 50% MT 50%	ENG usually MT seldom	ENG almost always MT almost never	**Score: /4**

24.   What language(s) does the target child speak with Sibling 1?

0	1	2	3	4	
ENG never MT always	ENG seldom MT usually	ENG 50% MT 50%	ENG usually MT seldom	ENG almost always MT almost never	**Score: /4**

25.   Sibling 2:   Older   Younger

Gender: M   F

Date of Birth: _____

26. What language(s) does **Sibling 2** speak with the target child?

0	1	2	3	4	
ENG never MT always	ENG seldom MT usually	ENG 50% MT 50%	ENG usually MT seldom	ENG almost always MT almost never	**Score: /4**

27. What language(s) does the target child speak with Sibling 2?

0	1	2	3	4	
ENG never MT always	ENG seldom MT usually	ENG 50% MT 50%	ENG usually MT seldom	ENG almost always MT almost never	**Score: /4**

(Continue with 35-40 until all siblings are included – see Appendix)

Enter the following Variables into the Data File:
Birth Order: 0 – only child; 1 – first born; 2 – second born, etc. _____

Family Size: Total Number of siblings _____

Number of Older Siblings _____

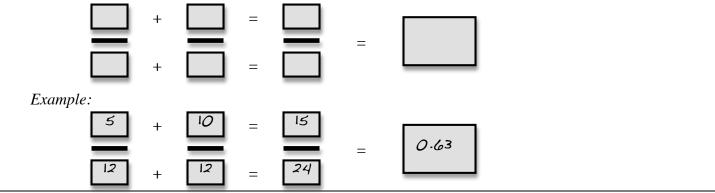Language Index: ENG = English; MT = Mother Tongue

Language Use in the Home:

NOTE: Higher scores (greater than 0.5) indicate more of a shift towards English use in the home. Lower scores (less than 0.5) indicate maintenance of the Mother Tongue.

	SCORE	EXAMPLE		SCORE	EXAMPLE
Mother to Child (Question 3)		I	Child to Mother (Question 4)		3
Father to Child (Question 10)		I	Child to Father (Question 11)		3
Other Adult to Child (Primary Caregiver) (Question 17)		NA	Child to Other Adult (Primary Caregiver) (Question 18)		NA
Other Adult to Child * (not Primary Caregiver) (Question 19b)		NA	Child to Other Adult * (not Primary Caregiver) (Question 20)		NA
Sibling 1 to Child ** (Question 23)		3	Child to Sibling 1 ** (Question 24)		4
Sibling 2 to Child ** (Question 26)		NA	Child to Sibling 2 ** (Question 27)		NA
Additional Sibling(s) to Child **/*** (Appendix)		NA	Child to Additional Sibling(s) **/*** (Appendix)		NA
TOTAL: *Sum of scores* *Number of scores x 4*		5/12	**TOTAL:** *Sum of scores* *Number of scores x 4*		10/12

To Calculate Language Use in the Home:

Add both totals together and then divide to get a proportion score:

$$\frac{\boxed{} + \boxed{} = \boxed{}}{\boxed{} + \boxed{} = \boxed{}} = \boxed{}$$

Example:

$$\frac{\boxed{5} + \boxed{10} = \boxed{15}}{\boxed{12} + \boxed{12} = \boxed{24}} = \boxed{0.63}$$

* include a score for each additional adult
** do not include siblings who are less than 2 years of age.
*** include a score for each additional sibling

Language Index: ENG = English; MT = Mother Tongue

D. Questions to parents about the TARGET CHILD

28.   What school does the target child currently attend?

Does the target child <u>currently</u> go to a daycare or have a babysitter?

How much English exposure does your child receive each day?
Here are some possible places your child might receive English input. You can indicate more than one.
Indicate what languages are spoken at the babysitter's, daycare, and/or school.

Language?

☐   preschool/daycare/babysitter full-time   _____
☐   preschool/daycare/babysitter part-time   hours per week?   _____
☐   after or before school child care   hours per week?   _____
☐   junior or senior kindergarten: half day   full day   _____
☐   grade _____   _____

This scale is meant to quantify the above information, please circle the most appropriate value (to represent the proportion of English the child hears each day, outside of the home. The examples below are meant as guidelines only):

0.00	0.25	0.50	0.75	1.00
e.g. The child is enrolled in a full-day program where 100% of the school is not in English, e.g., first language or French immersion	e.g. The child is enrolled in a bilingual half-day Kindergarten program	e.g. The child is enrolled in a bilingual Grade 1 program or in an English-only half-day Kindergarten program	Use as appropriate	e.g. The child is enrolled in English-only Grade 1 program or an English-only Kindergarten program and then goes to daycare (in English)

29. At what age did the target child start receiving <u>consistent and significant</u> exposure to English?
     <u>consistent and significant</u> = English-language daycare or babysitter full-time or at least three days per week or equivalent part-time. English-language school of any kind counts as consistent and significant exposure.

Age = _____   Date of entry into program (month/year) = _____

Age of Exposure	Year Month Day	**Months of Exposure**
Date of Exposure	____ ____ ____	(1) Convert Age of Exposure to Months:
Date of Birth	____ ____ ____	(2) Convert Age at Test to Months (page 1):
Age of Exposure	____ ____ ____	(3) Subtract: Age at Test – Age of Exposure
Additional Information:		

Please note any interruptions to the target child's exposure to English (e.g. an extended trip to the home country where the child did not receive English input). For children with interrupted periods of 6 months or more, adjust their months of exposure accordingly. For children who had very little exposure to English before the interruption (e.g. less than 6 months), calculate their Age of Exposure from their return to an English-speaking environment.

Language Index: ENG = English; MT = Mother Tongue

30.   What literacy and other language activities does the target child do <u>each week</u>?
          (Please circle all that apply)

Reading: includes having books read to them/looking at books. Most younger children will not know how to read themselves.
Computer: includes internet, games, storybooks on CD-ROMs, etc. (include only those computer activities that involve language
 Movies: video or DVD (on computer or television)
Extra-curricular: outside of school

Activities	ENGLISH			MOTHER TONGUE		
	everyday	at least once a week	almost never/ never	everyday	at least once a week	almost never/ never
a. Reads books or magazines	2	1	0	2	1	0
b. Uses a computer	2	1	0	2	1	0
c. Watches TV or movies	2	1	0	2	1	0
d. Storytelling	2	1	0	2	1	0
e. Singing Songs	2	1	0	2	1	0
TOTAL (by column):						
TOTAL (by Language):	/10			/10		

Comments on Activities:
 (Please note what type of storytelling the child does. For example, does the child come home
 from school and relay the day's events? Or does the child tell fictional stories? If the child
 tells fictional stories, does he/she use picture books when telling the story?)

31a.   What literacy and other language activities (that relate specifically to the
          MT) does the target child do each week? For example, a weekend
          language school in the MT or religious services.

*MT score:
/4*

          How often:
                    *4 = Child is registered in a full-time bilingual program at
                    school (e.g. Grade 1)*
                    *3 = Child is registered in a part-time bilingual program at
                    (e.g. Kindergarten)*
                    *2 = Child attends mother tongue classes outside of school
                    (more than one day/week)*
                    *1 = Child attends mother tongue classes outside of school
                    (once a week)*
                    *0 =Child receives little or no formal instruction in his/her
                    mother tongue*

Language Index: ENG = English; MT = Mother Tongue

31b. Does you child attend any extra-curricular activities?

	every day	At least once a week	almost never/ never
English:	2	1	0
Mother Tongue:	2	1	0

ENG Score: / 2

MT Score: / 2

32.   What are the languages spoken between your child and the friends he/she plays with regularly?

0	1	2	3	4
ENG never MT always	**ENG seldom MT usually**	**ENG 50% MT 50%**	**ENG usually MT seldom**	**ENG almost always MT almost never**

ENG Score:
4. ENG always
3. ENG usually
2. ENG 50%
1. ENG seldom
0. ENG never

ENG Score: / 4

MT score:
REVERSE SCALE
4. MT always
3. MT usually
2. MT 50%
1. MT seldom
0. MT almost never

MT Score: / 4

Calculating Richness Scores:
Sum the numerators and denominators for each score and then divide the resulting fraction to generate the Richness Scores.

<u>**English Richness Score**</u>	
Question 30	____ / 10
Question 31b	____ / 2
Question 32	____ / 4
Total:	____ / **16**

<u>**Mother Tongue Richness Score**</u>	
Question 30	____ / 10
Question 31a	____ / 4
Question 31b	____ / 2
Question 32	____ / 4
Total:	____ / **20**

Language Index: ENG = English; MT = Mother Tongue

Appendix: For ADDITIONAL SIBLINGS

35. **Sibling 3**:   Older   Younger

          Gender: M   F

          Date of Birth: _____

36. What language(s) does **Sibling 3** speak with the target child?

0	1	2	3	4
ENG never MT always	ENG seldom MT usually	ENG 50% MT 50%	ENG usually MT seldom	ENG almost always MT almost never

SIB3-CHI

Score: /4

37. What language(s) does the target child speak with **Sibling 3**?

0	1	2	3	4
ENG never MT always	ENG seldom MT usually	ENG 50% MT 50%	ENG usually MT seldom	ENG almost always MT almost never

CHI-SIB3

Score: /4

38. **Sibling 4**:   Older   Younger

          Gender: M   F

          Date of Birth: _____

39. What language(s) does **Sibling 4** speak with the target child?

0	1	2	3	4
ENG never MT always	ENG seldom MT usually	ENG 50% MT 50%	ENG usually MT seldom	ENG almost always MT almost never

SIB4-CHI

Score: /4

40. What language(s) does the target child speak with **Sibling 4**?

0	1	2	3	4
ENG never MT always	ENG seldom MT usually	ENG 50% MT 50%	ENG usually MT seldom	ENG almost always MT almost never

CHI-SIB4

Score: /4

Language Index: ENG = English; MT = Mother Tongue