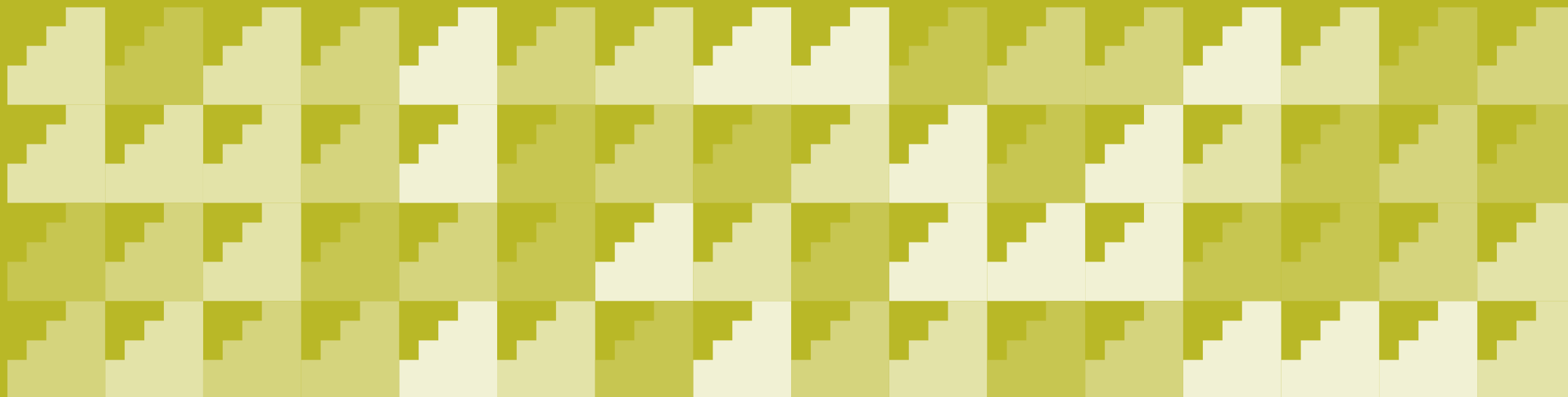


# Information for Early Years Workers



# Introduction

- 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.
  - Children need to develop these skills in their home languages as well as English because this helps them to learn language and communication skills as well as developing their self-identity and place within their community.
  - It is essential, therefore, that we promote the learning of all languages that a child is exposed to.
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## Why use an interpreter?

Family members may feel that they don't need an interpreter or that it is OK to bring someone they know to interpret for them. Although it might seem easier, there are a number of reasons why **a qualified interpreter is better:**

- Sharing personal information about the child or home life can sometimes be difficult through a family member.
  - Interpreters are trained to share information as it was intended.
  - Family members may be able to use every day English but not have the level of English required to share complex information.
  - Discussing complex or sensitive information can be stressful for the family and the interpreter. This may result in someone who speaks multiple languages going back to the language they are most confident with rather than the language you share (English).
  - The interpreter will tell you exactly what the child is saying. Using a family member to interpret may mean that they don't tell you exactly what the child is saying, so altering the communication.
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