

FAMILY FINDINGS

Beyond Translation:

Mitigating Negative Impacts of Child Language Brokering

Child language brokering (CLB) occurs when children, teens, and young adults translate and interpret for their parents and guardians in various contexts, such as medical, legal, and educational settings. This makes them **child language brokers (child LBs)**.

KEY FACTS ABOUT CLB



Used by many newcomer families in new, unfamiliar settings like Canada



Positive effects on children include strengthened family relationships and confidence



Negative effects on child LBs include role strain, academic issues, and distress



There is little support for child LBs and their families, limiting the positive impacts

PROGRAMMING FOR FAMILIES

To help raise awareness of CLB and lessen its negative effects, we offered:

FAMILY WORKSHOPS



- To educate and empower newcomer families about CLB
- To provide families with tools to handle CLB challenges effectively
- Activities include empathy training, role-playing, developing self-advocacy, and mindfulness practices

PEER SUPPORT GROUPS



- Parent support groups:**
To provide a welcoming space to share CLB experiences and exchange tips and resources
- Youth support groups:**
To facilitate a sense of belonging through various activities (summer camps, volunteering)

WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE



Attendees completed surveys before and after the workshop to assess their parenting practices (for parents) and social connectedness (for child LBs).

“The games made this workshop even more fun, and I also felt like my **relationships with my family improved thanks to this workshop.**”
– Child LB

“[The workshop] was useful and informative. I learned a lot [about] myself and my family. I **feel more confident in healthcare and more confident in language brokering.** It was a helpful support for [a] family like mine :)”
– Parent

AFTER THE WORKSHOP...

