

DCYF's Early Learning Division

Spanish Glossary of Terms

Language Matters.

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families' (DCYF), Early Learning Division and partners have created this Spanish glossary of terms, or 'translation glossary' to ensure specific terms are translated accurately and consistently for Washington's Early Care and Education (ECE) field.

This glossary is a(n):

- Index of specific terminology with approved Spanish translations to support staff, partners, contractors, and vendors when creating, translating, or cross-referencing translations.
- Tool to ensure translations are accurate, consistent and align early learning-specific terminology, for the State of Washington.
- Living document that will be updated on a regular basis by DCYF's Spanish Early Learning Glossary Workgroup Committee.

Acknowledgements

With gratitude, DCYF recognizes the foundational work of Ivonne Pereira of Child Care Aware of Washington, in creating the first draft of commonly used early learning words and their preferred terms.

Thanks to the foundational framework and support of partners, together, we have created a system-wide resource for early care and education. DCYF thanks all the workgroup members for their time and commitment to language access.

The Spanish Early Learning Glossary Workgroup is made up of Spanish speaking representatives from Cultivate Learning, Child Care Aware of Washington, Voices of Tomorrow, and the Department of Children, Youth, and Families.

During the development of this glossary, the workgroup reviewed the established early learning glossaries listed below to inform and align DCYF's preferred Spanish terminology.

- [Head Start Bilingual Glossary](#)
- [Head Start Style guide for Spanish Translations](#)
- Cultivate Learning Glossary: English-Spanish (*Coming soon*)



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Original Date: December 21, 2023

Early Learning Division | Approved for distribution by Katie Chennisi, Early Learning Initiatives Manager

Spanish Early Learning Glossary Workgroup—Current Members

Jamie Phillips-Jimenez

Cultivate Learning

Title: Early Achievers Standards Manager

Ruth Ortiz

Cultivate Learning

Title: Biliterate Content Specialist Spanish Lead

Rosalba Gonzalez

Cultivate Learning

Title: Biliterate Content Specialist English and Spanish

Gina Cruz

Voices of Tomorrow

Title: Provider Support Technical Assistant Specialist Spanish

Patricia Coss-Maxwell

Child Care Aware of Washington

Title: Program Manager of Professional Development

Cassandra Wilkerson

Department of Children, Youth, and Families

Title: Spanish Language Access Coordinator

Spanish Early Learning Glossary Workgroup— Previous Members

Ivonne Pereira

Child Care Aware of Washington

Title: Scholarship Coordinator

May Ling Joa Ricart

Cultivate Learning

Title: Biliterate Early Childhood Content Specialist

Using the Spanish Glossary of Terms

Use the Spanish glossary as a reference tool if you:

- Come across an English word or term, and you are unsure of how to translate into Spanish
- Come across a Spanish word or term that has various translations in Spanish and you are unsure of which translation to use and/or is preferred
- Are unfamiliar with the early learning terminology in Spanish
- For quality assurance when translating content into Spanish

Creation	Assurance	Consistant and Accurate Translations
If creating, translating, or reviewing Spanish content →	Use the Spanish glossary as a cross reference tool to find suggested/preferred terms when appropriate.	Using the glossary creates cohesiveness when translating content into Spanish.

DCYF's Early Learning Spanish Glossary

English	Spanish Preferred Term	Other Spanish Translations	Additional Notes/Context for Translation
ability	habilidad	capacidad, aptitud, habilidad	
Academic Advising Form	Formulario de asesoría académica		Can also be referred to as "Formulario académico"- this is a proper noun used in CCA scholarships
academic institution	institución académica		
academic qualifications	cualificaciones académicas	preparación académica, competencias académicas	
academic term	período escolar	término/curso escolar, término académico	
access	Acceso	acceder a	
accountability	responsabilidad	rendición de cuentas; responsabilidad funcional	
accountable (to be)	ser responsable		
accreditation	acreditación	credenciales	
action plan(s)	plan(es) de acción		
active listening	escuchar activamente	escuchar atentamente	

Original Date: December 21, 2023

Early Learning Division | Approved for distribution by Katie Chennisi, Early Learning Initiatives Manager

English	Spanish Preferred Term	Other Spanish Translations	Additional Notes/Context for Translation
actual age	edad actual		
actual costs	costos reales	costos incurridos, gastos reales	
actual enrollment	número de niños inscritos	matrícula real	
adjusted age	edad ajustada		
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)	Experiencias adversas en la niñez (ACE, por sus siglas en inglés)		Translation as indicated by the CDC
advisory board	junta de consejo	consejo asesor, junta de asesoría	
advocacy	abogacía	la defensa	
advocate	abogar	defensor	Depends on the context which word should be used
advocate (to)	abogar por	defender por	
affordable	económico	asequibilidad, de costo accesible	same for affordability
African-American	Afro-Americano/a	afro estadounidense	Use when referring to a person who lives in the United States of America and is a descendent of Africa
aggregate child-level assessment data	datos agregados de las evaluaciones funcionales a nivel del niño	datos agregados de las evaluaciones funcionales a nivel del niño	
aide	ayudante	asistente	Referring to a person who provides any type of assistant tasks in an early learning program
Alaska Native	Nativo de Alaska		
allocate (funds)	distribuir	asignar, destinar, repartir, imputar (fondos)	Depends on the context which phrase should be used
allocated costs	costos asignados	costos asignados/imputados	use when referring to costs that have already been

Original Date: December 21, 2023

Early Learning Division | Approved for distribution by Katie Chennisi, Early Learning Initiatives Manager

English	Spanish Preferred Term	Other Spanish Translations	Additional Notes/Context for Translation
			allocated by individuals
American Indian	Nativo/a Americano/a	Indígena de Norteamérica	
American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN)	indios estadounidenses y nativos de Alaska (AIAN, sigla en inglés)	indios estadounidenses y nativos de Alaska (AIAN, sigla en inglés)	
associate degree	título de asociado	grado asociado, título de carrera de dos años	Associates is an umbrella word. Can also be capitalized with or without title of fields (AA of Science, AA of Art, etc.)
anti-bias	anti-prejuicios	contra el prejuicio	Depends on the context which phrase should be used
applicant	solicitante		
applicant (job)	candidato/a	aspirante, postulante	
application(s)	solicitud(es)		
apply to	solicitar	aplicar	
approaches to learning	estrategias de aprendizaje	enfoques de aprendizaje	
areas of strength	áreas de fortaleza(s)		
assessment(s)	evaluación, evaluaciones	evaluación funcional	See also: screening
associate of science	asociado de ciencias		
associate degree	título de asociado	título de carrera de dos años	Can also be capitalized with or without title of field
Associate of Applied Science (AAS)	Asociado en ciencias aplicadas		
Associate of Technical Arts (ATA)	Asociado en artes técnicas		
Bachelor's Degree (BA)	Licenciatura	Licenciatura de artes, ciencias, etc., with room to add other	Capitalized/proper noun if followed title of field

English	Spanish Preferred Term	Other Spanish Translations	Additional Notes/Context for Translation
background check	verificación de antecedentes		
baseline	punto de referencia	de referencia inicial	Depends on the context which word (or phrase) should be used. See also: benchmark.
baseline assessment	evaluación de referencia	evaluación base/de referencia	
behavior	comportamiento	conducta	Depends on the context which word should be used
behavior development	desarrollo del comportamiento	desarrollo de la conducta	Depends on the context which phrase should be used.
behavior disorders	trastornos de la conducta	trastornos del comportamiento	Difference of actions and behaviors (i.e conducta is actions and comportamiento is behaviors)
behavior management	manejo del comportamiento	manejo de la conducta	Depends on the context which phrase should be used
behavior screening	evaluación del comportamiento	evaluación de la conducta, prueba diagnóstica/sistemática de la conducta	Depends on the context which phrase should be used
behavior support plan	plan de apoyo al comportamiento	plan de apoyo de la conducta	Depends on the context which phrase should be used
behavioral challenges	comportamientos que presentan retos	desafíos del comportamiento, desafíos de la conducta	Depends on the context which phrase should be used
benchmark	punto de referencia	valor de referencia	Depends on the context which word (or phrase) should be used. See also: baseline.
best practices	mejor(es) práctica(s)	buenas prácticas, prácticas óptimas	

Original Date: December 21, 2023

Early Learning Division | Approved for distribution by Katie Chennisi, Early Learning Initiatives Manager

English	Spanish Preferred Term	Other Spanish Translations	Additional Notes/Context for Translation
bilingualism	bilingüismo	bilingüismo	
biliteracy	lectoescritura en dos idiomas		
board of directors	mesa directiva	junta de directores, junta directiva, consejo administrativo	
board of education	mesa directiva de educación	junta de educación	
borderline	al borde	al límite, en el límite, ambiguo, dudoso, marginal, en el límite de la normalidad	
budget period	período de presupuestario		
calendar days	días calendario	días natural	Used when referring to records review and children needing to be screened within 90 calendar days of enrollment
capacity	capacidad		
career pathway	trayectoria profesional	promoción profesional, pasos en la carrera	
caregiver	proveedor/a	cuidador/a, proveedor de cuidado	
case management	administración de casos	gestión de casos	
caseload	número de casos		
center-based child care	cuidado de niños basados en centros	centros para el cuidado de niños	
center-based program	programa basado en el centro		
center-based setting	entorno basado en el centro	entorno del centro, ambiente tipo guardería	
center-based environment	ambiente basado en el centro		
certificate	certificado		This is a noun

Original Date: December 21, 2023

Early Learning Division | Approved for distribution by Katie Chennisi, Early Learning Initiatives Manager

English	Spanish Preferred Term	Other Spanish Translations	Additional Notes/Context for Translation
certified	certificado		This is a verb (past tense)
Certified Child Care Center (CC)	centro de cuidado infantil certificado	Centros Certificados de Cuidado Infantil Familiar, Centro Certificado (shorthand term)	Note you may see certified center as a short hand but best practice is to use full term Certified Child Care Center
Certified Family Home Child Care (CF)	Hogares Certificados de Cuidado Infantil Familiar (CF)	Cuidado de niños en el hogar certificado	
challenges	retos	obstáculos, dificultades, desafiante	
challenging behavior	comportamiento difícil, comportamiento desafiante, conducta difícil, conducta desafiante	conductas que presentan retos	
chart	gráfico/a	gráfico o tabla	Use 'gráfico/a' for information in pictures, bars, figures, and tables to list information, names, numbers, etc. For a table with numbers it is 'gráfica'. A drawing is 'gráfica'.
checklist	lista de verificación	hoja de verificación	
children with disabilities	niños con necesidades especiales	niños con discapacidades	
chronological age	edad cronológica		Commonly used when referring to exact age of a child, including day, month, and year
class	clase, curso		When referring to group of students use 'Clase' and when

Original Date: December 21, 2023

Early Learning Division | Approved for distribution by Katie Chennisi, Early Learning Initiatives Manager

English	Spanish Preferred Term	Other Spanish Translations	Additional Notes/Context for Translation
			referring to a specific type of class or course use 'clase o curso'
classroom	salón de clase(s)	aula	Typically referring to a physical space
Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS®)	Sistema de puntuación para las evaluaciones en el aula (CLASS®, sigla en inglés)		This is a title of a book, do not change
Coach	Coach	entrenador, asesor/a, instructor	To be used when referring to an Early Achievers Coach as a proper noun. We acknowledge this is not the proper translation but is the term widely known throughout Washington communities. Keep term capitalized when singular and plural (i.e., Coach and Coaches). When not referring to Early Achievers Coaches use other Spanish suggested terms.
Coach and Educator Community Interface (CeCi)	Interfaz comunitaria entre asesores y educadores (CeCi, por sus siglas en inglés)		
coaching	asesoramiento	asesoría	When coach term changes from proper noun to verb you will translate to Spanish

English	Spanish Preferred Term	Other Spanish Translations	Additional Notes/Context for Translation
Coaching Certificate Program	Programa de certificación en asesoramiento		
coaching cycle	ciclo de asesoramiento		This term may be found translated as 'proceso de coaching'. When possible, change to 'ciclo de asesoramiento'.
coaching partnership	asociación de asesoría (coaching)		Note we are transitioning from using 'coaching' to 'asesoría' which is why we are distinguishing coaching
cognitive impairment	disfunción cognitiva	discapacidad cognitiva	Use 'discapacidad' when it is a diagnosed impairment. Use 'disfunción' when speaking about children in general and when we are unsure of a diagnosis.
college	colegio		Use when referring to institutions that are community colleges, technical schools, and liberal arts colleges. Also, can be used to reference any and all higher education programs.
community advocacy	abogacía comunitaria	defensa de la comunidad	
community college	colegio comunitario		
community of practice	comunidad de práctica		
community partners	socios comunitarios		

Original Date: December 21, 2023

Early Learning Division | Approved for distribution by Katie Chennisi, Early Learning Initiatives Manager

English	Spanish Preferred Term	Other Spanish Translations	Additional Notes/Context for Translation
competence	competencia	aptitud, capacidad	
concern(s)	preocupación(es)	inquietudes	
conference	conferencia		If referring to a parent teacher conference this term can also be translated as 'junta de familia y maestro'.
consultant	consultor/a	experto, especialista	
continuity of care	continuidad del cuidado	cuidado continuo	
continuous quality improvement	mejoramiento continuo de la calidad		
contract year	contrato anual		
criteria	criterio		
deep dive	profundizar en		
Early Adopters	Etapa Inicial		Proper noun
finalize my quality level	completar mi nivel de calidad		
In the Queue	En Espera		Proper noun
options available beyond level 3	opciones disponibles más allá del nivel tres		
Organization Trainer Mentor (OTM)	Mentor/a de Capacitadores de la Organización (OTM)		Proper noun
Provider Access to a Community Equivalent (PACE)	Acceso para el proveedor a un equivalente comunitario (PACE)/(PASO)		This acronym is unique in that it can stay in English as 'PACE' or be translated into Spanish as 'PASO'
Peer Learning Community	Comunidad de Aprendizaje Profesional		
phase	etapa		
policy	poliza/políticas		
Program Profile	Perfil del Programa		Proper noun
quality recognition	reconocimiento de la calidad		

Original Date: December 21, 2023

Early Learning Division | Approved for distribution by Katie Chennisi, Early Learning Initiatives Manager

English	Spanish Preferred Term	Other Spanish Translations	Additional Notes/Context for Translation
Records Review	Revisión de Documentos		Proper noun
standard areas	normas de las áreas de calidad		
Video Highlights	Video Ejemplares		Proper noun
video recording	grabación del video		
video submissions	envío de los videos		

Do You Have Questions or Recommendations?

If you have questions or would like to recommend terms, email Casandra Wilkerson, Spanish Language Access Coordinator, at: casandra.wilkerson@dcyf.wa.gov.