



Styles of Interpretation

1. In **simultaneous interpreting** the interpreter interprets at the same time that the speaker is speaking, just a few words behind. This technique is most useful when interpreting for a single person in a large group. In triadic interviews it tends to be distracting and confusing, but can be useful if the parent launches into an emotional speech that cannot be interrupted or in cases where time is of the essence.
2. **Consecutive Interpreting** involves a relay in which one speaker says a few sentences, the interpreter interprets, the other speaker responds, the interpreter interprets, etc. This approach is the most common educational interpreting because it closely resembles the way in which people usually talk to each other. This approach is less confusing than simultaneous interpreting for a triadic interview and more accurate than summarization.
3. **Summarization** occurs when one person speaks at length and the interpreter summarizes the important points at the end. Summarization is not recommended in an educational setting because of the great potential for errors and omissions. However, if the interpreter is going to summarize, careful notes must be taken while the person is speaking. Summarization should not be used as a technique for editing material that the interpreter feels is irrelevant or that does not seem to answer the parent's question.
4. **Sight translation** involves taking a document written in one language and reading it aloud in another language. This mode is used to interpret consent forms, parent rights, educational reports, or anything that is written.

Adapted from: Bridging the Gap; A Basic Training for Medical Interpreters, Interpreter's Handbook. Third Edition January 1999; The Cross Cultural Health Care Program