

## Home Runs and Strikes: The Every Day of a Bilingual Child Life Specialist

Barbara Nunez, MS, CCLS



### Objectives

- By the end of the presentation, participants will be able to describe the benefits of bilingualism in healthcare and explain how being a bilingual child life specialist positively impacts patient and family experiences.
- By the end of the presentation, participants will be able to identify the challenges faced by bilingual child life specialists when translating medical information, including linguistic accuracy and cultural nuances, and understand the potential impact of miscommunication.
- By the end of the presentation, participants will be able to apply strategies and best practices for accurate translation and interpretation of complex medical terms and procedures while maintaining cultural sensitivity.







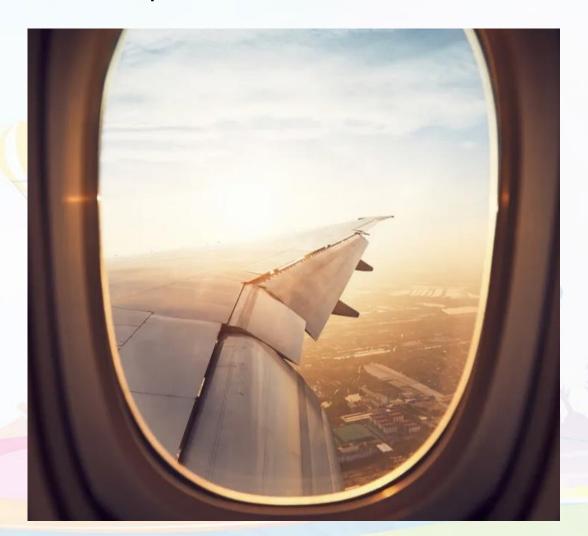




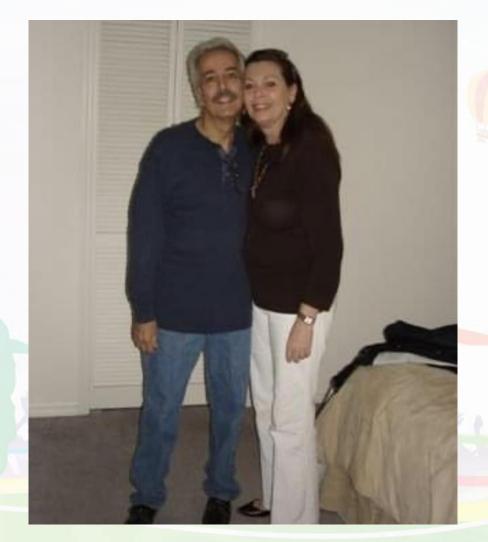
## My Story



September 11<sup>th</sup> 2007



December 17<sup>th</sup> 2007



## My Story

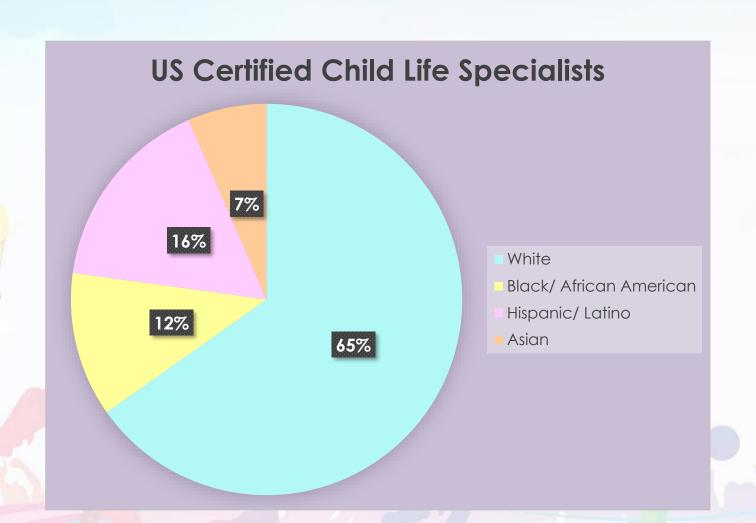






### **Statistics**

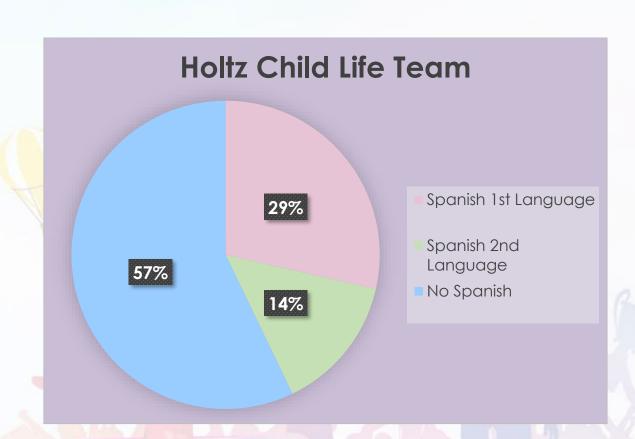


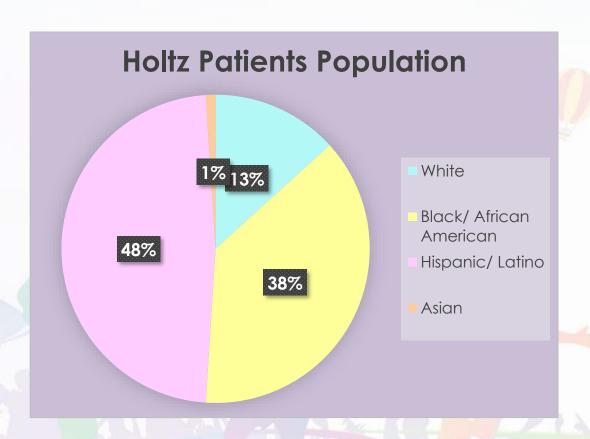


White	3600
Black/African American	660
Hispanic/Latino	900
Asian	360



#### Statistics







# Impacts of being a bilingual child life specialist

- Effective communication with a wider range of patients and families
- Enhance patient experience and comfort
- Bridging language barriers for accurate information exchange
- Reducing misunderstanding during medical interactions
- Providing emotional support in multiple languages
- Explaining medical procedures in a way that eases anxieties
- Contributing to a more inclusive healthcare environment





# Challenges of being a bilingual child life specialist

- Balancing Languages
- Cultural Sensitivity
- Code-Switching
- Misinterpretations
- Limited Fluency
- Emotional Toll
- Language Preference
- Time Constraints
- Lack of Resources





## Translating medical information as a bilingual child life specialist

- Medical Jargon
- Cultural Nuances
- Lack of Equivalents



- Clarity and Simplicity
- Patient Understanding
- Medical Errors

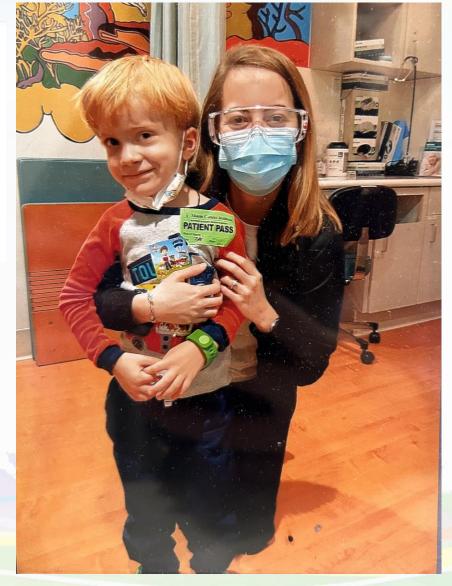
### **Communication Strategies**



- Professional Interpreters
- Bilingual Staff
- Visual Aids
- Simple Language
- Gesture and Body Language
- Open Communication
- Digital Translation Tools
- Written Materials
- Use of Family Members
- Patient's Preferred Language
- Respectful Listening
- Cultural Sensitivity









# Do not let LANGUAGE be a BARRIER!!!





#### References

- Florida Agency for Health Care Administration. (n.d.). Retrieved from https://ahca.myflorida.com/
- Zippia. (2022). Child life specialist demographics and statistics: Number of child life specialist in the US. (<a href="https://www.zippia.com/child-life-specialist-jobs/demographics/">https://www.zippia.com/child-life-specialist-jobs/demographics/</a>).



# Please remember to go on cvent and fill out the session survey!