

## **PACIFIC CHILD: Teacher Focus Group Discussion Guide**

Thank you for meeting with us today. The purpose of our visit is to learn more about your experiences with the Pacific CHILD professional development program. Your point of view as teacher participants is extremely valuable to us. We are especially interested in learning more about how you feel the training sessions are going so far, and how you feel about your progress in implementing key components of the Pacific CHILD pedagogy in your classroom.

Please keep in mind:

- There are no right or wrong answers to the questions we have prepared. Our questions are designed to stimulate discussion about your experiences with Pacific CHILD.
- We will take notes during the discussion for our internal use only. We will not share these notes with anyone outside of the BPA evaluation team. Your comments will be kept anonymous and will not be traceable to you.
- Please remember to be respectful of everyone's opinion. Speak one at a time so that everyone's comments are heard.
- Your specific comments will not be shared with other teachers, principal, reading specialists, administrators, or any of the PREL staff.
- Your participation in this focus group is completely voluntary and you do not have to answer any questions that you do not want to answer.

### **Discussion Questions:**

#### **1. BACKGROUND**

- Now, let's start by everyone sharing their name, the grade you are teaching, and a little about your experience teaching and working with ELLs.
- Briefly explain what kind of professional development activities you have participated in (general, not specific to ELL's or the Pacific region) over the past year?

#### **2. NEED FOR ELL-SPECIFIC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- Prior to the start of the Pacific CHILD program, had you had any training specific to working with ELLs?

***Probes:** If so, what kind? Did you feel you had a need for this kind of professional development? Why or why not?*

### 3. CULTURAL CONTEXT

- What do you think of the cultural component of the program? Do you think that the focus on cultural context of the Pacific is helpful?

*Probe: If so, how? If not, why not? Does the cultural focus impact your ability to work with your students in anyway?*

### 4. PACIFIC CHILD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

- Now that you have some experience with the Pacific CHILD model, how do you think it will impact/has impacted your ability to work with ELLs?

*Probe: Do you feel more/less confident about meeting the needs of ELLs?*

- Which part(s) of the Pacific CHILD model have been most helpful to you so far? Which have been the least helpful?

*Probe: Try to identify strengths as well as unmet needs/areas for improvement.*

### 5. 2-WEEK INSTITUTE

- Did you participate in the summer institute?

*Probe: If not, probe why they did not participate (the schedule conflict, lack of resources).*

- Please describe your experiences with the 2-week summer institute?

*Probes: Did you have an opportunity for in-class practice? Were you able to receive appropriate feedback about your teaching? What about the 2-week institute worked? What were some areas that could be improved upon?*

### 6. MINI-INSTITUTES

- Did you participate in any of the mini-institutes?

*Probe: If not, probe why they did not participate (the schedule conflict, lack of resources).*

- Please describe your experiences with the mini-institutes? Did the mini-institutes meet your needs/expectations?

*Probes: What aspects of the mini-institutes did you find to be most helpful? What were some areas that could be improved upon? Was the content of the mini-institutes applicable/relevant to your teaching?*

## 7. STRUCTURED LEARNING TEAMS

- Do you regularly participate in the Pacific CHILD's Structured Learning Teams,?

*Probe: If not, probe why they do not regularly participate (the schedule conflict, lack of time, lack of resources, not interested, etc).*

- What has your experience been with the structured learning teams

*Probes: How often are the structured learning team meetings held at your school? How often do you attend these meetings? How useful do you find these meetings?*

- So far, are the reading specialists who lead the structured learning teams meeting your needs/expectations?

*Probes: Is there anything that you feel you need from your reading specialist or the structured learning team that you're not yet getting (e.g. communication with flexibility, content of sessions, how often they met, etc.)*

- What are some of the benefits you feel you have received from the structured learning teams?

## 8. APPLYING PACIFIC CHILD PRINCIPLES/COMPONENTS

- Now that you have had some experience with the Pacific CHILD model, how do you feel about your skills with regard to working with ELLs?

*Probe: How well do you feel you are able to enact the Pacific CHILD components in your classroom?*

- We're interested in understanding how you feel your skills are developing over time. Can you give us some specific examples that demonstrate how well you are adopting the Pacific CHILD principles?
- How have your students responded to the Pacific CHILD activities?
- What would you say are the greatest barriers to enacting Pacific CHILD principles in your classroom?

## 9. SCHOOL AND DISTRICT LEVEL SUPPORT

- How well do you feel your school and district level administrators support the Pacific CHILD program?

*Probes: How well does your principal understand and support the 2-week institute, mini-institutes, and structured learning teams? Does participation in the Pacific CHILD Program mean extra duty for you? Can you think of other ways that your principal or other administrators can support your participation in the PACIFIC CHILD Program? (Probe: release from other duties, incentives or rewards). Do you have any suggestions for improvement in school and district level support for the Pacific CHILD Program?*

## **10. OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH PACIFIC CHILD**

- Looking back at your experience with Pacific CHILD so far, how would you describe your overall level of satisfaction with the program?

*Probes: Do you feel you are making progress? Do you feel the program is helping you meet the needs of your students? What is the most helpful component of the Pacific CHILD Program so far? (For year 2 focus groups: Do you feel that you will continue to enact the Pacific CHILD principals after the training sessions have ended?)*

**THANK YOU**