1. What is ABICE?
   - ABICE – Arkansas Bilingual Interpreter Credential in Education is a new credential for bilingual professionals who provide interpretation services in educational settings that serve children from birth through 12th grade. It is recognized as a professional credential by both the Arkansas Department of Education and Arkansas DHS Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education.
   - ABICE is the first credential for oral bilingual interpreters in education in Arkansas. The certifications offered for medical and court interpretation do not cover the same terminology nor the same procedures as is typical in educational settings, thus they are not interchangeable.

2. Why do I need the ABICE credential?
   - Title VI of the Civil Rights Act provides the legal foundation for obtaining this credential. Programs receiving any federal funding are to provide qualified adult interpreters when needed for meeting with families who have limited proficiency in English. The ABICE credential indicates a qualified educational interpreter.
   - Qualified interpreters are important to effectively support and engage families and “increase communication across all languages,” which addresses the Family and Community Engagement – FACE Essentials AR, (Communication Key Elements – Communication Essential, https://sites.google.com/view/engagementmattersAR).

3. How do I obtain the ABICE credential?
   - You must complete the 40-hour (5-day) training course; pass five quizzes during the course; demonstrate appropriate interpretation skills during the course and pass a comprehensive final exam.
   - In addition to the ABICE credential, participants are eligible to receive professional development hours through the AR Department of Education and the Early Childhood Professional Development Registry (PDR).

4. Are there any educational requirements to be eligible to attend the ABICE training course?
   - No specific educational level is required, but you must be at least 18 years old and demonstrate oral fluency in English and another language by passing an oral language proficiency assessment.

5. If I have passed the oral language proficiency assessment, why do I need to attend the training?
   - Just because someone is bilingual does not mean they are qualified to conduct interpreted meetings. Interpreting is a skill, with a Code of Ethics and standards
of practice. Training of interpreters is important to ensure accurate communication to protect children, families and programs.

6. How do I apply?
   - The application is posted online. The link is available on the Welcome the Children website https://uofapartners.uark.edu/projects/welcome-the-children/
   - If you have any problems locating the application, contact Brenda Reynolds at bkreynol@uark.edu.

7. What is the process after I apply?
   - You should receive an email that your application was received.
   - The ABICE Advisory Committee will review all applications that have been received by the application deadline. If more applications have been received than available slots, the applications will be reviewed, and applicants selected. Consideration will be given based on diversity of languages, geographic area and program diversity, with preference given to early childhood programs.

8. What is the cost to attend?
   - The rate is only $325 per participant, which covers the 5-day training course, training materials, and lunch / snacks each day. Travel costs are not included. Thanks to sponsor support, we are able to offer this valuable training at less than half of the $700/participant cost of providing the training. The majority of the training cost is covered by the Welcome the Children project, which is administered by the University of Arkansas Partners for Inclusive Communities and funded by DHS Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education (through Child Care Development Funds and Arkansas Better Chance Funds).
   - The training sites for the November and March trainings are being provided by the Education Cooperatives at each location.

9. How do I make the payment?
   - Do not pay until you have been notified that you have been accepted into the training. At that time, you should receive an invoice and instructions on how to complete the bilingual oral language fluency assessment.
   - If for any reason, you do not pass the bilingual oral language proficiency assessment, we will refund your registration fee, minus $120 for the bilingual oral language proficiency assessment (refund of $205), but you will not be able to attend the ABICE training course.
   - Checks for registration should be sent to:
     University of Arkansas Partners for Inclusive Communities
     ATTN: Welcome the Children – ABICE
     322 Main St., Suite 501
     Little Rock, AR 72201
   - We are not able to accept credit cards at this time.