



## What Is Assessment?

### How is “assessment” defined?

**As • sess • ment** = the process of observing and documenting what children do and how they do it. These records are the basis for teaching each individual child.

### What are the key components of assessment?

- ongoing and integrated into play & routines
- combines many types of information gathered over time
- based on appropriate developmental expectations
- includes follow-up if concerns are identified
- informs communication with families
- considers the child in the context of his/her culture

### What is the difference between assessment and screening?

**Assessment** determines how a child is developing, so that adults can plan individual learning experiences. (Example: Teaching Strategies GOLD®)

**Screening** is meant to identify and document developmental concerns for referral to appropriate services. (Example: ASQ)

### Why is assessment important?

- Assessment improves learning
- Assessment enhances the adult-child relationship
- Assessment improves family communication

### How is assessment related to curriculum?

Assessment and curriculum inform each other. Assessment ensures that children are making progress toward the goals outlined in the curriculum.

### Is assessment necessary for all ages of children?

Yes, even infants.

### Should I make my own assessment, or purchase one?

It is recommended to purchase a research based assessment tool that is approved for use with Bright & Early ND. Bright & Early ND will be supporting the use of the Teaching Strategies GOLD® Assessment tool.

### Helpful Hint!

Think of the word “Assessment” as “**ASSIST**ment”. Assessments assist you in planning the right learning experiences for children.

