



Tip Sheet: 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.

