Assessment in ECE Settings

Purpose for Child Assessment

- Individualize instruction
- Assess curricular efficacy
- Compare child to standards
  - Program goals
  - Developmental norms (screening)

Quality Reminders

- Reliable
- Valid
- Free of bias
- Linguistic appropriateness
Assessment Buzzwords
- Classroom (embedded) assessment
- Performance assessment
- Authentic assessment

Assessment Decisions
- Content
  - Broad vs. specific
  - Formative vs. summative
- Data
  - Collection strategies
  - Recording strategies

Descriptive Techniques
- Activity records
  - Running records or incident records
  - Records detail of events
- Anecdotes
  - Records or notes
  - Records detail of individual’s behavior
- Supporting documentation
Quantitative Techniques

- Frequency tally
  - Count of events
  - Records behavior over time
- Checklists
  - Skill listing
  - Indicates presence/absences
- Rating scales
  - Rank performance
  - Indicates place on continuum

Testing vs. Natural Observation

Testing

- Comparison
  - Criterion-referenced
  - Norm-referenced
- Purpose
  - Achievement
  - Readiness
  - Screening
- Standardized vs. customized
Examples

Use of Books Measure
- Child selects book as activity
- Child turns pages
- Child correctly retells story
- Child completes story prompt
- Child repeats words read

Tally
- Frequency response
- Not aggregated

Concepts About Print Scale
- Points to letter
  - Any
  - Particular
  - First & last of word
  - Capital
- Points to word
  - Any
  - Particular
- Points to entire sentence
- Points to punctuation

Checklist
- Yes/no response
- Total score
DRDP-R

Rating Scale
- On continuum
- Average score

Child Assessment Project
- Choose 1 child
  - At fieldwork setting or not
  - Preschool-age range
  - Normative development
- Focus on literacy
- Use 3 assessment approaches
  - Anecdotal record
  - Direct test
  - DRDP-R measures of indicator
- Compare results

Assessment Activity