



ASSESSMENT GLOSSARY

Aggregated or Collective Data

Data are combined from many assessments and reported as a summary; provides information about groups rather than individuals.

Anecdotal Records

Written notes that record important assessment information about what children say or do during everyday activities

Assessment

Observing, gathering, and recording information on children's learning for the purpose of evaluating their progress and making teaching decisions

Assessment-Instructional Cycle

The ongoing process of observing children during everyday classroom activities; keeping track of their progress by documenting those observations; interpreting the information that has been gathered; and making adjustments to instruction

Authentic Activities

Real life tasks and projects that children do in their everyday, natural settings

Checklist

An assessment tool that lists skills and behaviors in a logical order; used to collect information on specific behaviors for an individual child or group of children

Data

Factual information gathered through observation and documentation

Data Analysis

Thorough evaluation of assessment data with the goal of finding useful information that will help teachers and administrators make informed decisions

Documentation

Detailed records that are collected to describe and understand a child's learning process

Domains

The 11 essential and overarching areas of child development and early learning that make up the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework (HSCDELFF)



Interpretation

The process of giving meaning to information that has been collected

Monitoring

The process of systematically collecting information on a child's progress over time

Ongoing Child Assessment

The continuing process of observing, documenting, and interpreting progress, and determining when to adjust teaching practices to better support children's development and learning

Portfolio

A collection of children's work that has been carefully chosen, over time, to document their learning and skills

Reliability

Reliability of an assessment tool or method means that it provides dependable information that is consistent over time and across observers.

Trend

A pattern or general direction

Validity

Validity refers to the ability of an assessment tool or method to measure what it is supposed to measure. For example, valid assessment information is collected on a wide enough range of examples to adequately represent a skill or behavior.

Work Samples

Examples or photos of children's behaviors, skills, or projects; for example, drawings, constructions, or early writing.



For more information, contact us at: NCQTL@UW.EDU or 877-731-0764

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