



NATIONAL CENTER ON

Early Childhood Development, Teaching and Learning



SAMPLE NEEDS ASSESSMENT – Background Knowledge (Infants/Toddlers)

Coachee Name: _____ Date: _____

Read each statement and use the 1 to 5 scales to show how often you are using each practice now, and how often you would like to use it. Then write the difference between current use and desired use of the practice.

Teaching Practices	I am doing this now...					I want to do this...					Differences between current use and desired use
	Not at all					Not at all					
1. Notice when infants are alert and interested to describe objects and actions around them in their home language or English.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	
2. Talk to infants and toddlers about their daily routines and activities in home languages, English, or sign language.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	
3. Engage infants and toddlers in “conversations”, echoing their speech attempts and using words in home language or English.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	
4. Provide and read a variety of culturally and linguistically appropriate books.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	
5. Take infants and toddlers out into the community and use home language or English to narrate sights and sounds along the way.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	
6. Help infants and toddlers safely explore their world by offering safe toys and objects with a variety of textures throughout the environment and use their home language or English to describe the objects and the child’s actions.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	
7. Introduce new and interesting words and concepts based on shared attention.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	
8. Build on what older infants and toddlers know by echoing and expanding their expressive language and providing new opportunities to practice that language.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	
9. Respond to questions toddlers ask in home languages and English.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	
10. Provide feedback to children’s words and actions that helps them learn about the world in their home language and English.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	
11. Encourage and narrate children’s symbolic and imaginative play in their home language and English.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	



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Teaching Practices	I am doing this now...					I want to do this...					Differences between current use and desired use
	Not at all				All the time	Not at all				All the time	
12. Encourage infants and toddlers to show what they know in any language, including sign language.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	
13. Support children as they use assistive technology, as identified on their IFSP, to support learning and expression.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	