

## Using Data to Inform Teaching

Narrator: Welcome to this short presentation on using data to inform teaching. This presentation is part of our series on ongoing child assessment. Ongoing child assessment is essential to quality teaching and learning. One of the very important reasons for gathering assessment information or data is to use it to guide and improve teaching in order to improve child outcomes. There are many ways to collect or gather data. Teachers take notes, collect samples of children's work, take video, and use checklists, just to name a few methods. Then, teachers organize the data, so that it tells whether or not the child is learning.

Sometimes, a teacher will look at the data for many children in the classroom. Other times the teacher will look at an individual child's data over time. Let the data tell you whether or not the child or group of children is learning and whether or not you need to make adjustments to teaching. Sometimes, the data are variable. Try to look for patterns in the data. You may adjust your teaching, by using new or different materials, by providing more practice opportunities, or by giving clear feedback during the learning activities. Sometimes, the data show that the child or children are making progress, but haven't yet reached the goal. You'll want to continue what you're doing. It's working. Continue to collect data, so that you know when the child or children achieve the goal. Sometimes, the data show that a child or group of children is not making expected progress. It's time to do something different.

Trisha Anderson, Teacher: When we're doing our lesson plans, we look over the data that we have collected to get an idea of who may need extra help in order to do that activity. And then based off of that, we will write down some things that we can change, in order for them to be able to accomplish that activity.

Narrator: You may make the goal or task simpler, change the setting or the schedule, provide even more learning opportunities or practice, change the learning materials, or change aspects of teaching, such as the amount and type of assistance or feedback given. Then, keep collecting data to see if these changes make a difference. Sometimes, the data show that a child or group of children is making good progress and has achieved the goal. Celebrate and move on to new and more challenging goals. Looking at the data, reflecting on the data, and interpreting the data are important. Use the data to help make decisions about teaching. Use the data to change or adjust teaching to help children learn.

Thank you for listening. See our tips for teachers and helpful resources for more information on using data to inform teaching.