
APPENDIX B

RECOMMENDATIONS AND GUIDANCE FOR SELECTION OF PUBLISHED ASSESSMENT TOOLS

Selection Criteria:

The following criteria are recommended when selecting a published assessment tool for use with children, birth to six:

1. The tool has good psychometric properties with sensitivity and specificity of at least 70 to 80%.
2. It is normed across a wide variety of cultural groups and different populations.
3. The purpose of the assessment should guide decisions about which tool(s) to select; use of the tool should be consistent with its intended purpose.
4. The tool can be administered by teachers/other professionals when provided basic training in its administration.
5. It is holistic in terms of the domains or areas of development and learning that are assessed.
6. The method for administration is appropriate for children in the selected age range.

Source:

C.E. Snow and S.B. Van Hemel, Editors. *Early Childhood Assessment: Why, What, and How*. National Research Council. Committee on Developmental Outcomes and Assessments for Young Children. Washington, DC. The National Academies Press. 2008.

Recommendation Context and Caveats:

1. The intent of the recommendation is to propose criteria that can be uniformly applied, now and in the future, in the selection of quality assessment tools for use across early childhood systems for children birth to six years.
2. Tools that assess multiple domains support a balanced approach, recognizing that all areas of child development are highly interrelated and serve as the foundation for later academic and social learning.
3. Professional development is essential so that teachers and other service providers can make informed decisions about how to select assessment tools; when and how to gather data; administer and score tools; use data effectively; and engage families in decision-making and the overall assessment process.
4. Cross-sector professional development is desirable because it creates a climate for partnerships and collaboration to share data about children as they move within and between service delivery systems.