
What Are Outcome Assessments?

- Evaluations of performance for specific skills or activities you want to measure

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Why Are We Assessing Children in Preschool?

- A diverse group of children are coming to us with varying backgrounds and experiences.
- To provide accountability for children to learn and be prepared for kindergarten.

- Through observation and evaluation we can better understand each child’s strengths and weaknesses, and better meet each child’s needs.
- We can use information from the assessments to do intentional planning, individualizing, and intentional teaching.
- Assessing children leads to planning instruction that is more responsive to individual children as well as to the whole class.
Who Should Be Assessing the Children?

- All staff who work with the children
- First the staff needs to be informed of what they are assessing/observing and how the assessment is to be administered and recorded—i.e., checklists, anecdotal records, tapes, videos, photos, etc.

When Should the Assessments Take Place?

- On-going
- Baseline assessments
- Mid-year assessments
- End of the year, as a cumulative report of each child’s growth/progress

Where Should the Assessments Take Place…?

Circle Time
Preschool Assessment and the Head Start Performance Outcomes

Indoor/Outdoor Play

How Do We Assess Children?

- Observation
- Anecdotal records
- Work samples
- Checklists
- Webs
- Photos, etc.

Using the Assessment Data

- The teacher and teaching staff need to use the assessment data to plan, individualize, differentiate instruction, and teach!
- Using the data that you collect allows you to recognize children’s strengths and vulnerabilities and allows you to make plans to further their growth and learning in those areas.

Use the Assessment Data and Ask Yourself These Questions:

- What specifically is this data telling me about the child or the children?
- What are the indicated learning needs?
- What modifications in materials and activities do I need to make?
- Is there enough information in the records to give me a clear picture of what this child does or doesn’t understand?

Use the data to further plan, individualize, and teach!
Assessments, Planning, and Teaching Is a Continuous Cycle

The Portfolio/Assessment Binder
- Tells a story of the child’s performance/growth
- Provides tangible evidence of the child’s work/performance
- Serves as a good communication tool
- Happens in a natural setting
- Assists with planning
- Gives the children opportunities to be part of the assessment process
- Focuses on the positive growth of the child