

Methods & Materials for Teaching about Evaluation & Assessment

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Objectives:

- To share information about strategies, materials, and resources related to teaching about evaluation and assessment
- To provide opportunities for participants to discover methods and materials of interest to them

I. Definitions

A. Evaluation

- “An assessment conducted to determine progress over time by comparing a child’s skills before and after intervention” (Losardo & Notari-Syverson, 2001) **RG PAGE 50**
- “A statewide [early intervention] system . . . shall include. . . “a timely, comprehensive, multidisciplinary evaluation of the functioning of each infant or toddler with a disability in the State, and a family-directed identification of the needs of each family of such an infant or toddler, to appropriately assist in the development of the infant or toddler” (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997, P.L. 105-17, p.84)

B. Assessment

- “The process of observing, gathering and / or recording information for the purpose of making evaluative decisions” (Losardo & Notari-Syverson, 2001) **RG PAGE 50**
- “The process of observing, recording and otherwise documenting the work children do and how they do it, as a basis for a variety of educational decisions that affect the child.” (NAEYC, 1990)
- “A flexible, collaborative decision-making process in which teams of parents and professionals repeatedly revise their judgments and reach consensus about the changing developmental, educational, medical and mental health [services] needs of young children and their families” (p. xi) (Bagnato & Neisworth, 1991)

II. Core Components of Effective Assessment

A. Family-directed

B. Culturally sensitive and relevant

C. Ecologically-based / authentic

III. Reframing Assessment to Reflect Core Components

A. Family Involvement

Video:

- *Is my baby OK?* (Pathways Awareness Foundation, 1993) **RG PAGE 52**
- *First years together: Involving parents in infant assessment* (Project Enlightenment, 1989) **RG PAGE 51**
- *Improving the post-assessment process: Families and teams together* (Moore, Ferguson, & Eiserman, 1995) **RG PAGE 52**
- *One of the family* (Early Connections for Infants, Toddlers, and Families, Colorado Department of Education, 1998) **RG PAGE 59**

Print:

- *New visions for the developmental assessment of infants and young children* (Meisels & Fenichel, 1996) **RG PAGE 53**
- Strategies for achieving family-driven assessment and intervention planning (Boone & Crais, 2002)
- Weaving interventions into the fabric of everyday life: An approach to family assessment (Bernheimer & Keogh, 1995)

Tools:

- *The Child Preference Indicators* (Moss, 1997) **[HANDOUT]**
- *Pathways: A Child's Journey* (Child Learning Center, 1997) **[HANDOUT]**

Web:

- How can I assess the development of my preschooler?
http://www.ldonline.org/ld_indepth/early_identification/parent_brochure.html
- *New visions: A parent's guide to understanding developmental assessment*
http://www.zerotothree.org/parent.html?Load=parent_intro.html

B. Diversity

Video:

- *A three-way conversation: Effective use of cultural mediators, interpreters and translators* (The Spectrum Project and Project A.C.T. of the University of Colorado at Boulder, Department of Communication Disorders and Speech Science, 1999) **RG PAGE 28**

- *Observing preschoolers: Assessing first and second language development* (Child Development Division, California Department of Education, 1998) **RG PAGE 21**

Print:

- *Assessing and fostering the development of a first and second language in early childhood* (Child Development Division, California Department of Education, 1998) **RG PAGE 4**
- *Developing cultural competence in early childhood assessment* (Moore, Beatty, & Pérez-Méndez, 1995) **RG PAGE 11**
- *One child, two languages* (Tabors, 1997) **RG PAGE 21**

Web:

- *Cultural and linguistic diversity and IDEA: An evaluation resource guide* (Center for Innovation in Special Education, 1999).
<http://tiger.coe.missouri.edu/~mocise/pubs/books.htm/>

C. Ecologically-based / authentic

Video:

- *Learning about young children: Play-based screening in early childhood* (Squires, 2000) **RG DATABASE**

Print:

- *Alternative approaches to assessing young children* (Losardo & Notari-Syverson, 2001) **RG PAGE 50**
- *A case for teaching functional skills aka My Other Brother Darryl [HANDOUT]*
- *Ecological assessment and planning* (McCormick & Noonan, 2002)

IV. Re-thinking the Stages of Assessment Process

D. Preassessment Planning

Video:

- *Transdisciplinary arena assessment process: A resource for teams* (Child Development Resources, 1992) **RG PAGE 53**

E. Assessment

a. Observation

Video:

- *Child observation techniques* (Drake & Kubetz, 1994) **RG PAGE 51**

b. Ethnographic interviewing

Video:

- *Listening to families* (American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) Research and Education Foundation, 1995) **RG PAGE 58**

Print:

- Asking the right questions in the right ways: Strategies for ethnographic interviewing (Westby, Burda & Mehta, 2003)
[HANDOUT]

F. Sharing information

Video:

- *Breaking the news* (Institute for Families of Blind Children, 1990)
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- *Interdisciplinary teamwork* (Virginia Institute for Developmental Disabilities, 1990) **RG PAGE 98**

Web:

- When a professional says www.kidstogether.org/prof-say.htm
[HANDOUT]

G. Linking information gathering to implementation

Video:

- *Improving the post-assessment process: Families and teams together* (Moore, Ferguson, & Eiserman, 1995) **RG PAGE 52**
- *Just being kids: Supports and services for infants and toddlers and their families in everyday routines, activities and places* (Edelman, 2001) **RG PAGE 71**
- *Transdisciplinary arena assessment process: A resource for teams* (Child Development Resources, 1992) **RG PAGE 53**

Print:

- Reach for the stars, planning for the future (Grisham-Brown & Haynes, 1999) **RG PAGE 64**

V. Putting It All Together

- The Assessment that never happened (from Edelman, 1991)
RG PAGE 55

VI. Resources

American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) Research and Education Foundation. (1995). *Listening to families*. Van Nuys, CA: CHADEM.

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- Meisels, S.J., & Fenichel, E. (Eds.) (1996). *New visions for the developmental assessment of infants and young children*. Washington, DC: ZERO TO THREE: National Center for Clinical Infant Programs.
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