

# Screening & Assessment

in early childhood settings

There can be some confusion about the difference between screening and assessment in early childhood settings. This infographic helps illustrate key characteristics for each type of tool.



## 1

### Screening

#### Characteristics of screening tools:



- Quick and easy to use



- Accurate, both in sensitivity and specificity



- Completed by parents, doctors, teachers, child care providers, home visitors, or other professionals

#### Screening answers the question,

“Does a child need an in-depth assessment?”



#### Screening can...

- identify children who are **developing on schedule**.
- identify children who would **benefit from practice or support in specific areas**.
- identify children **at risk for developmental delays** who should be referred for further evaluation.



#### Screening cannot...

- diagnose **delays or disabilities**.
- identify specific **child goals to target**. Screening only provides information on general areas of development.



#### Examples of screening tools:

ASQ-3  
ASQ:SE-2  
BITSEA

DECA  
DIAL-3  
ESI-R

PEDS  
RDSI  
TABS

## 2

### Assessment

#### There are two types of assessment:



- **Diagnostic assessment** (professional evaluation)



- **Ongoing assessment** (programmatic, curriculum-based, criterion-based)

#### Diagnostic assessment answers the question,

“Is the child eligible for services?”



#### Diagnostic assessments...

- are complex processes that may **identify specific developmental disabilities**.
- are administered by **evaluation specialists**.
- determine if there is a delay and the **extent of the delay**.



#### Examples of diagnostic assessment tools:

Bayley-III  
BDI-2  
CBCL

CLAS  
GES  
ITSEA

LAP-D  
MSEL  
PDMS-2

#### Ongoing assessment answers the questions,

“What skills does the child have?” and “What skills should be goals?”



#### Ongoing assessments...

- provide a complete **child profile**.
- identify targeted **goals and objectives**.
- help with **program planning**.
- can be used for **child or program evaluation**.



#### Examples of ongoing assessment tools:

AEPS  
CCITSN/CCPSN  
COR Advantage

DECA  
DRDP  
GOLD

HELP  
SEAM  
TPBA/12

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