

CHAPTER 1

AN OVERVIEW OF ASSESSMENT IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

Suggested Assessment Activities

Short Essay Questions

1. Describe the Child Study Movement. How did this movement evolve, and what was its impact on assessment of children?
2. Why is identification of children with disabilities sometimes challenging for classroom educators? Describe three factors that pose a challenge.
3. How did Common Core affect instruction and testing in public schools? Discuss three assessment issues.

True and False

1. Standardized testing was first used in the 20th century.
2. Assessment with preschool children is primarily to identify children with disabilities.
3. Early childhood specialists consider the use of standardized tests in Head Start Programs to determine future funding to be inappropriate.
4. Children who are English Language Learners (ELLs) generally do as well on standardized tests as children who speak English.
5. Standardized tests should never be used with preschool children.
6. Funding for early childhood programs during the last century benefited the development of tests for preschool children.

Multiple Choice

1. Why is assessment with infants and preschool children used?
 - A. To determine developmental progress or to diagnose illnesses.
 - B. To identify children for special education services.
 - C. To ensure that government agencies have developmental statistics on young children.
 - D. All of the above
2. What was the result of the child study movement?
 - A. The initiation of research into child development.
 - B. The establishment of developmental norms.

- C. A call for educational reform.
 - D. B & C
 - E. All of the above
3. The first standardized tests were
- A. Published by large commercial companies
 - B. Started as informal assessments
 - C. Designed to measure IQ
 - D. All of the above
4. Legislation to address the needs of children with disabilities was
- A. First required for infants and toddlers
 - B. Developed with one omnibus law
 - C. Gradually expanded with ongoing legislation
 - D. None of the above
5. Concerns about assessing English Language Learners (ELLs) include all but which of the following
- A. Lower reading and language fluency scores may impact assessment results
 - B. Disproportionate numbers of ELLs are being placed in special education
 - C. ELLs should always be assessed and placed in special education classes when they first enter American schools
 - D. The screening results for ELLs may not accurately reflect their development due to cultural and language differences

Assignment Assessment

1. There are many challenges for teachers of children who are learning English. A major issue is identification of ELLs children for special education services. Find at least three current newspaper, Internet, and journal articles that discuss this topic. Discuss difficulties in identifying ELLs children for special services as well as misidentification issues.

CHAPTER 2

HOW INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN SHOULD BE ASSESSED

Suggested Assessment Activities

Short Essay Questions

1. There are several basic purposes or principles for quality assessment in early childhood education. Why are the following principles significant? *Assessment should use multiple sources of information. Assessment should benefit the child and improve learning.*
2. A principle of assessment in early childhood education is that assessment should be fair for all children. What populations of children does this principle refer to? Why is this an issue?
3. How should parents and children be partners in the child's assessment? What will teachers have to do to ensure that they are involved?
4. Preschool standardized tests are questioned because there are issues of validity and reliability with younger children. Explain the problems and describe when standardized tests are appropriate for children under six.
5. Why do children with typical development vary in the progress of development in different domains? How does this occur? Why is it important for the teacher to understand variations in children's development?

True and False

1. Standardized tests are the most important type of assessment of children's progress.
2. Standardized tests are important for diagnosing delays and disabilities in young children.
3. Teachers and other local educators frequently design informal assessment strategies.
4. Software for assessment by computer can be an important assessment tool with young children.
5. Teachers should work with children for several weeks at the beginning of the year before implementing assessment strategies.
6. Teachers should use tests prepared by professional curriculum sources rather than designing their own assessments.
7. Teacher-directed interviews and directed assignments are types of performance assessments.
8. Assessment results should be used to determine which children in the class are making the best progress.

Multiple Choice

1. Why should assessment be used in the classroom?
 - A. Planning for instruction
 - B. Assessing ongoing progress in learning
 - C. Retaining children in a grade
 - D. B & C
 - E. A & B
2. When initiating assessment with young children, which of the following is correct?
 - A. A group of five children should be selected to assess together.
 - B. The examiner should be alert to shyness or fatigue in the child.
 - C. The examiner should begin the assessment process as soon as possible when the child enters the room.
 - D. None of the above
 - E. All of the above
3. Infants who are at risk for development might be examined by a
 - A. Neonatologist
 - B. Psychiatrist
 - C. Pediatrician
 - D. A & B
 - E. A & C
4. Which of the following is an example of performance assessment?
 - A. Computer software programs
 - B. Standardized tests
 - C. Teacher-directed interviews
 - D. None of the above
5. When does the pre-assessment process begin?
 - A. Assessing prior to planning curriculum based on individual needs
 - B. Over the summer, before the school year begins
 - C. When meeting new students at the beginning of the school year
 - D. A & C
 - E. None of the above

Assignment Assessment

1. Locate a copy of the standards for early childhood education in your state. Find out and report on the following information:
 - a. Who was responsible for developing the standards?
 - b. What processes were used to develop the standards?
 - c. What resources were used to develop the standards?
 - d. What types of early childhood programs are expected to follow the state guidelines?
 - e. Are early childhood programs evaluated using the state guidelines? If so, How?

2. Interview a preschool teacher in a local childcare facility and a local public preschool. Find out how student progress is shared with parents.
 - a. What process is used to share information?
 - b. How are parents involved in contributing to the child's assessment?
 - c. How are children involved in the process?
 - d. How are the two types of programs alike and different?

3. Electronic Management of Learning (EML) is expanding assessment resources through the use of the Internet. Conduct an Internet search of technology-based assessments and compile a list of websites that provide assessments for children in the primary grades.