

Assessing Infants and Toddlers

Use of Infant-Toddler Assessment in Applied Contexts

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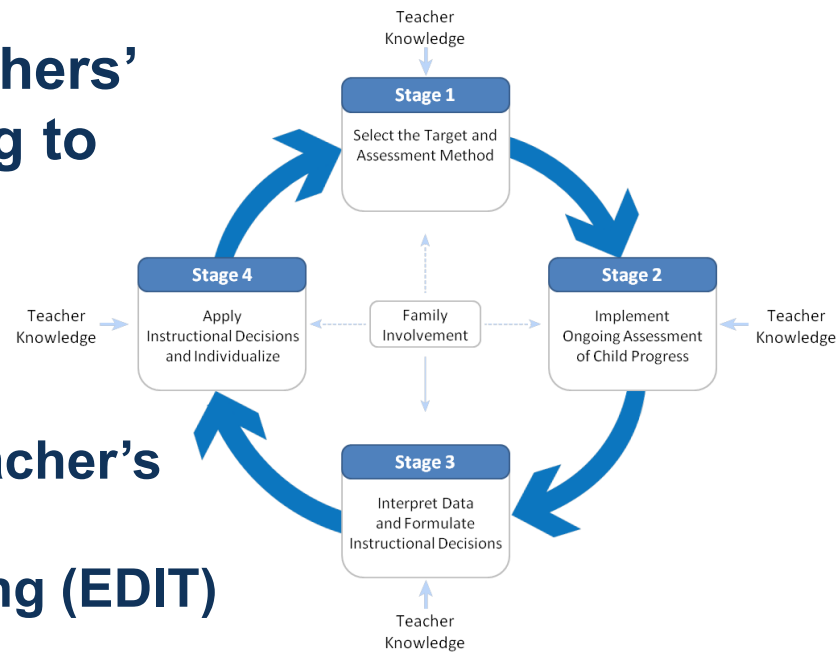
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Kinds of Assessments

- **All assessments involve collecting samples of behavior**
 - **Tests are a standardized way**
 - Screening tests are the most frequently used normative test reported in infant-toddler settings
 - Screening tests, such as Ages and Stages, are less structured than developmental assessments such as the Bayley Test of Infant Development
 - Tests for infants have less evidence of predictive validity than tests administered in preschool and at later ages
 - **Observational assessments are most common method used in infant toddler classrooms**
 - Checklists
 - Rating scales
 - Rubrics

Projects informing this presentation

- **Learning from Assessment**
 - Preschool resources, presentations, and guided practices
 - Infant and Toddler resources, presentations, and guided practices
- **Assessing Early Childhood Teachers' Use of Child Progress Monitoring to Individualize Teaching Practices**
 - Literature review
 - Conceptual model
 - Small pretests of a measure of teacher's use of assessments:
Examining Data Informing Teaching (EDIT)



Standards for Assessment

- Utility
- Acceptability
- Authenticity
- Equity
- Sensitivity
- Convergence
- Collaboration
- Congruence



(Neisworth & Bagnato, 2004)

Principles for Infant-Toddler Assessment

- **Framework of typical development while taking cultural variations into account**
- **Development is interdependent**
- **Multiple sources of information needed**
- **Caregiver child relationship matters**
- **Collaboration with families**
- **Identify current and emerging competencies – include the “how” as well as the “what”**
- **Assessment is an intervention**

Improving Assessment in Applied Settings

- Professional development and ongoing guidance in using the assessment
- Clearer guidance about how and when to collect assessment information
 - Increase use of focused observation
 - Provide easy data collection tools
- Clearer guidance about how to use assessment information to look across domains and to inform instruction
- Use of technology, such as the Early Communication Indicators



For More Information

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- <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/research/project/early-childhood-teachers-use-of-progress-monitoring-to-individualize>
- <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/resource/measuring-infant-toddler-language-development-lessons-learned-about-assessment-and-screening-tools>