

# Assessment

# Purpose of Assessment

- Screening
- Instruction
- Diagnostic

# Screening

- Identify potential problems
- Does not mean there are problems

# Instruction

- Informs the learning process
- Supports the learning process
- Monitors learning that is taking place

# Diagnostic

- More specific/investigates the severity and nature of a need
- Used to establish program eligibility
- **Strengths and needs of:**
  - development
  - instruction
  - behavior

# Types of Assessment

- Standardized
- Norm Referenced
- Criterion Referenced
- Curriculum Based
- Readiness

# Standardized

- Predetermine items that represent “standards” of knowledge and/or skills.
- Can be normed or criterion referenced
- Items presented to all children in the same sequence, using the same administration procedures and materials.
- Scoring procedures for all children are conducted the same standard way.

# Norm-Referenced

- Compares a child's scores with other children in the same age group.
- Remember the norm curve anyone?

# Criterion-Referenced

- Compares a child's performance to a pre-determined criteria (usually developmental sequenced)
- Usually more flexible than standardized or norm referenced assessments.

# Curriculum Based

- Criterion referenced and aligned with curriculum goals.
- Used to place students in a curriculum sequence and monitor progress.
- Can include instructional activities.

# Assessment Methods

- Very difficult to get useful information with formal “testing”.

Does 0 mean “F” or “nothing”?

- Must have a combination of methods and sources of information (caregiver reports and observation)

# Assessment Methods

- Observation
- Interviews
- Permanent Products
- Direct Assessment

# Types of Items in Cognitive Assessments

Processes such as reasoning, perceptual organization, categorization, working memory

- Analogies
- Puzzles
- Questions to measure verbal knowledge
- Riddles
- Questions that require child to sequence items
- Questions that require child to sort information

# Examples of Cognitive Assessments

<http://www.pearsonclinical.com/psychology/products/100000390/kaufman-brief-intelligence-test-second-edition-kbit-2.html#tab-details>

<http://www.pearsonclinical.com/psychology/products/100000310/wechsler-intelligence-scale-for-children-fourth-edition-wisc-iv.html#tab-details>

<http://www.assess.nelson.com/pdf/WJIV15A.pdf>

# Eligibility and Redetermination

- Cognitive Assessments are used to determine eligibility for special education services in school systems
- Every three years whether to administer assessments to examine eligibility has to be considered (that does not mean that tests are conducted)