

Assessment Focused Terminology

Portfolio Records – a collection of a student’s work used to show growth over time.

Norm-referenced Assessments – a test that uses takers’ scores to establish how the “average” or “normal” student performed and compares all other takers to that performance

Diagnostic Assessments – assessments used BEFORE a lesson to determine what students already know for the purpose of planning instruction

Formative Assessment- refers to a range of formal and informal strategies used to assess children’s understanding while teaching is in progress (opposite of Summative Assessment which happens at the end of a unit of study). Formative assessment helps teachers adjust and modify teaching to ensure children are meeting the intended learning goals.

Observational Assessment Tools – we know these! Take them one at a time and think them through:

- Event sampling – keeping track of how often a single behavior happens (in this question, how often the child shares toys, initiates play and takes turns)
- Skills checklist – a checklist used to record if a student is able to perform a certain task (think all of our TS Gold checklists)
- Rating scale – assessment that gives students a rating for a specific skill or behavior
- Running record – most often, a running record is used to describe a tool used to assess a child’s reading skills, however it can be used more broadly to describe a detailed, objective and systematic observation of a child’s behavior or activity while it is happening.

There are a wide range of assessment instruments targeted for use in early childhood settings. They most often address following areas of development:

- approaches to learning
- physical/motor
- social/emotional
- cognitive
- communication and language
- literacy
- math/numeracy
- sensory function
- temperament
- behavior
- specific disabilities such as autism