



OFF TO A GOOD START: Formative Assessment for Kindergartners

The NC K-3 Formative Assessment Process supports teaching and learning by helping teachers, students, and families understand the learning needs of each child so they can grow and develop.

WHY is it important?

Almost 120,000 children in North Carolina enter kindergarten each year with varying experiences, knowledge, and skills. The K-3 Formative Assessment Process, which includes the Kindergarten Entry Assessment, helps teachers and families gain an ongoing understanding of the strengths and needs of each child as a way to help ensure that each child reaches his or her greatest potential.

WHAT happens?

In the formative assessment process, teachers collect information about children to guide teaching and learning. The information gathered during the first 60 days of kindergarten creates a Child Profile – a snapshot of each child's early learning development in key areas. Teachers use this understanding – as well as information collected throughout the school year – to meet the specific learning needs of each child.

HOW does it work?

The teacher intentionally collects evidence about what children say, do, make, or write (e.g., observations, work samples, parent input, activities) through the course of regular instruction. The focus is on five areas of learning and development:

- Approaches to Learning
- Cognitive Development
- Emotional-Social Development
- Language Development & Communication
- Health & Physical Development

The teacher and student use the evidence collected through the formative assessment process to better understand where a child is developmentally in his or her learning. This helps the teacher and student make immediate and ongoing adjustments to instruction and learning.

A secure electronic platform stores the collected student information to support sound instructional decision-making.

The materials developed as the foundation for this process align with both the *NC Foundations for Early Learning and Development* and the *NC Standard Course of Study*.

WHO participates?

In 2016-2017, kindergarten teachers in all school districts will assess children in all five areas – or domains – of learning and development with these learning objectives:

- Following Directions and Letter Naming (Language Development & Communication)
- Object Counting (Cognitive Development)
- Engagement in Self-Selected Activities (Approaches to Learning)
- Emotional Literacy (Emotional-Social Development)
- Fine Motor: Grip and Manipulation and either Crossing Midline or Hand Dominance (Health & Physical Development)

For more information, please visit: <http://rtt-elc-k3assessment.ncdpi.wikispaces.net>

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