

A Checklist to Help Programs and Practitioners Know if They Are Doing Authentic Assessment

Directions: This checklist can be completed for an individual practitioner or for an entire program. For each of the following assessment features, indicate the extent you or your program uses the feature to gather information about what children know and can do by picking one of the choices from the dropdown menu.

If assessment practices differ for different purposes of assessment, consider completing this checklist separately for different purposes. This [resource on virtual assessment](#) lists the different purposes of assessment for early intervention and early childhood special education programs.

Yes: This feature applies to the entire assessment process for all or most children.

Some: This feature applies to **some** of the assessment process for **all or most** children; this feature applies to the **entire** assessment process for **some** children; or this feature applies to **some** of the assessment process for **some** children.

No: This feature applies to few or no children's assessments.

Is this feature part of your/your program's assessment process?	Answer	Comments
Children are engaged in naturally occurring behaviors and routines during the assessment.	Choose an item.	
Children are with familiar people during the assessment.	Choose an item.	
Children are in a familiar place during the assessment.	Choose an item.	

Is this feature part of your/your program's assessment process?	Answer	Comments
Children are using toys and other objects that are familiar to them.	Choose an item.	
Children are using their primary language.	Choose an item.	
Information is collected about child behaviors in different settings and situations and at different times of the day.	Choose an item.	
Information is collected using a variety of approaches that capture naturally occurring behaviors and routines (direct observation, reporting by parents and other caregivers, photographs or audio/video recordings, work samples, and/or other documents).	Choose an item.	
Information is collected from multiple people (for example, family members, other caregivers, professionals).	Choose an item.	
The adult is <i>not</i> doing direct testing with the child. Direct testing involves the use of a standardized assessment tool that includes scripted language and specific items and test materials.	Choose an item.	

July 2025

To access this and other resources, visit inteca-idea.org/tools/aa-checklist

Suggested citation:

INTECA. (2025). *A checklist to help programs and practitioners know if they are doing authentic assessment*. SRI International.



This project is funded under a cooperative agreement from the U.S. Department of Education, #H327V220001. This document does not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. Project Officers: Anita Vermeer and Rebecca Sheffield.

