



# Pre-K Lead Teacher: Assessment

- ▶ **Audience:** Pre-K Lead Teachers
- ▶ **Type:** Self-Paced with Rolling Enrollment
- ▶ **Enrollment:** September 1, 2022-April 14, 2023
- ▶ **Duration:** September 1, 2022 - May 19, 2023

**Description:** The Early Childhood Assessment course has been specifically designed for early childhood educators working full-time in West Virginia Universal Pre-K classrooms. Participants will focus on understanding the assessment cycle and developmentally appropriate practices within the context of early childhood learning environments. Throughout the course, participants will learn about and practice using a variety of tools and strategies for recording authentic assessments. These will include creating check lists, collecting work samples, and writing anecdotal notes. Participants will discover the importance of developing a home/school collaborative team and tips on how this can be accomplished. After completing this course, participants will have a firm grasp on how to collect authentic assessments, how and why to create student portfolios, and how to use data to guide instructional planning. Most importantly, participants will develop an understanding that authentic assessment is not something you do along with teaching, authentic assessment is teaching.

## Course Goals:

- ▶ Understand the instructional cycle.
- ▶ Understand authentic assessment.
- ▶ Understand how authentic assessment guides instruction.
- ▶ Understand developmentally appropriate practices.
- ▶ Gain a deeper understanding of grade level standards.
- ▶ Make connections between DAP, curriculum, and authentic assessment.
- ▶ Understand the different types of authentic assessment.
- ▶ Understand when to use the different types of authentic assessment.
- ▶ Use a variety of instruments to collect data.
- ▶ Consider different methods of organizing data.
- ▶ Match different types of data to different situations.
- ▶ Understand how data is used to plan for instruction.
- ▶ Understand how data is used to determine the needs of students.
- ▶ Understand how data is used to extend, enrich, and scaffold learning.
- ▶ Understand the importance of clearly communicating authentic assessment results.
- ▶ Understand the importance of reporting factual information.
- ▶ Understand the importance of having evidence to support their findings.



## Session Overviews

### ▶ **Session One - The Teaching/Assessment Cycle**

Authentic assessment is a variety of tools including observations and documentation that track a child's progress. The data collected is used for planning instruction for the growth of the student and/or the class; it is an integral piece to a teacher's curriculum planning.

### ▶ **Session Two - Connecting Developmentally Appropriate Practices with Standards and Assessment**

Positive and caring relationships with adults and other children provide the best learning environments for students. Students benefit from developmentally appropriate activities that include hands-on experiences and intentional guidance which build on prior knowledge. The standards are developmentally appropriate and centered on what young children should know and be able to accomplish.

### ▶ **Session Three - Types and Uses of Authentic Assessment**

The goal of assessment is to collect meaningful information about children in order to guide their education. Through careful observation, a teacher can better understand the development of their students. There are a variety of methods to assess young children. It is best to use more than one form of assessment to accurately see a child's progress in all developmental areas.

### ▶ **Session Four - The Collection of Data**

Assessment tools can include anecdotal notes, checklists, and work samples. On-going observations should happen within the natural environment with varied groupings of children. Staff should use more than one tool when assessing a student's development to provide a more complete picture of how well he or she is progressing.

### ▶ **Session Five - The Understanding and Use of Data**

Student involvement in daily routines and activities in the classroom are the basis for assessment that assists in instruction and learning. The information gathered through assessment provides feedback on the progress students are making in reaching developmental and academic standards. This information along with modifying instructional material and adapting teaching strategies will support the students' learning.

### ▶ **Session Six: How to Communicate Findings Appropriately**

Part of the assessment process is to notify families, classroom staff and other specialists about what students have accomplished and areas that need improvement. Teaching staff use work samples, checklists, and anecdotal records when discussing the student's progress. When information is shared with families, they are more capable to partner with teaching staff to enhance their child's progress.

## Course Grades

All grades in the course gradebook must be a checkmark for successful course completion. A checkmark indicates that all work has been completed and the work meets the expectations for that assignment. Quiz scores must meet the minimum expectations as stated in the course.

