

## **Assessments to Monitor Progress and Measure Outcome Indicators in Preschool Children**

### **Purpose**

After a rigorous process, the Arizona Department of Education adopted a menu of four assessment instruments for progress monitoring and for measuring outcome indicators in preschool children ages three years to kindergarten entry in early childhood programs administered by the department.

### **Scope of Assessment**

Best practice in assessment of young children recognizes the need for multiple assessment methods to obtain a true picture of a child's progress. Although there is no perfect assessment for young children, the selected instruments are well designed for all of Arizona's children. The assessment can be utilized with English language learners and children with special needs. In addition, they approximate an assessment free of gender and cultural bias. All the selected assessment instruments align with the domains and content areas in the Arizona Early Learning Standards.

### **Requirements**

Local education agencies will select and administer one assessment from the menu in order to monitor progress of children and to meet the requirements of the 2004 Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA), Part B, Section 619, or to provide accountability data for state Early Childhood Block Grant (A.R.S. 15-1521), or to provide accountability data for the State Family Literacy Program (A.R.S. 15-191.01) and Title 1 Even Start Program.

### **Accountability**

Data from administration of the monitoring and outcome assessments will be entered into the Arizona Department of Education's Student Accountability and Information System (SAIS) by local education agencies and grantees, beginning in school year 2006-2007.

Data obtained from the assessments is useful for teachers in their lesson planning and support of a child's learning, and provides a local program and the Department of Education with valuable information to inform professional development and technical assistance.

### **Assessment Menu Options (in alphabetical order)**

- [Child Observation Record \(COR\); High/Scope Educational Research Foundation, Ypsilanti, MI.](#)
- [The Creative Curriculum Developmental Continuum Assessment System; Teaching Strategies, Inc., Washington DC.](#)
- [Galileo Plus, Assessment Technology Inc., Tucson, AZ](#)
- [Work Sampling System; Pearson Learning Group, Parsippany, NJ.](#)

*Arizona Department of Education Early Childhood Education does not endorse any one assessment over the other.*

### **Training on Assessments**

The publishers listed above will be scheduling training on the assessments, including data input, during the late Summer and Fall of 2006. For further information regarding training, check the websites of the publishers listed, as the publishers are responsible for all components of training. Training fees and instrument purchase are the responsibility of the local education agency.