

Developing the Perfect Assessment Method

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Intro to Early Childhood

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In today's world, teachers are often not using the proper assessment to make sure their students are meeting the standards. In this article, *Using Authentic Assessment to Evidence Children's Progress Toward Learning Standards*, Jennifer Grisham and associates share how useful authentic assessment is. This article tells one how they can use this assessment to document children's progress toward a set of standards. Jennifer Grisham and associates talk about an early childhood head start programs, named New Horizons and Outcomes Framework. In these programs I found how to link assessment to curriculum affectively, assess the progress in a variety of ways, and the new technology to help display their progress.

The number one reason why teachers do assessment is to make sure that the learning is linked to the curriculum. If children are learning subject matter that is not part of the standard then in some cases it may be considered useless. Authentic assessment is the number one model to link assessment to curriculum (Grisham 1). This assessment is known to positively impact the child's outcome in school. For example a program called Work Sampling System took a test compared with two different types of groups. One group was involved in the Work Sampling System and the other was not and research shows that the group in the authentic assessment program had much better scores in both reading and math (Grisham 1). Students in the Work Sampling group were varied in both high and low achieving students. This research shows that a program like this would have a more positive outcome for students. While doing assessment a teacher must also be able to administer authentic assessment curriculum, otherwise known as embedded assessment.

Assessing evidence of children's progress can be displayed in a variety of ways. A teacher could do observations, direct testing, and interview. When a teacher uses the authentic assessment mentality, they often feel that having just a checklist or a progress test is not the way to go. Often times children get disrupted from classroom activities in order to be tested. In doing this, it is not as effective as what using the embedded instrument would be, in guiding the children to fulfilling the curriculum (Grisham 1). Some methods to fulfill the curriculum without disrupting the class could be the Book about me, Playdough, Manipulatives, and storytime. While the children are doing these activities the teacher is now assessing whether or not the children understand what they are learning. Often times when children are young they tend to get nervous during testing one on one and tend not to do as well. By using this method of embedded instrument they will be tested as they are doing activities with their classmates. After assessing the children you can then record the assessments

In order to record the assessments, the teacher can enter them into this computer program and have them hyperlinked to the individuals score sheets. By using the program the teachers and then at the end of the year show the progress to families. By doing so, the mother and father can see what their child's strengths and weaknesses were. Also this program not only benefits the parent, but also the teacher. The teacher can then see what he or she's classroom excelled in or struggled with. By seeing this, the teacher can then have a better idea when planning next year's curriculum. Also another group of people that can see this information is the administration. By them being able to see it, they can know what their school is doing well in and not so well. They can then meet with the teachers and discuss what they

need to work on for the next year and what they should keep doing to make their academic standard higher.

Through this article, I have come to the conclusion that there are many ways to do proper assessment. With this type of assessment being Authentic, I believe it will be more effective than any others. Being able to do assessment toward the curriculum in this method I have mentioned I believe in will not only benefit me and the children, but also the parents. Often times parents are not aware of their child's progress, but with the new technology I would be able to show them personally how he or she's child is doing. By showing them we both can talk about what they, as parents could do, to help their child succeed. With this method of authentic assessment, I believe that it will help me be able to become a well rounded teacher.

Works Cited

Grisham-Brown, Hallam, Brookshire. August 2006. "Using authentic assessment to evidence children's progress toward learning standards." Early Childhood Education Journal.

