

Kindergarten Entry Assessment in New Jersey

What is *Teaching Strategies GOLD*®?

Teaching Strategies GOLD® is

- a research-based, developmentally appropriate system for assessing the development and learning of children from birth through kindergarten
- used during the first 7 weeks of kindergarten to gain a comprehensive understanding of children's development and learning as they enter school;
- used throughout the year to guide planning and instruction;
- based on 38 objectives that are predictors of school success;
- aligned with New Jersey's early learning standards, the *Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework*, and the *Common Core State Standards* for kindergarten;
- valid and reliable for assessing the development and learning of children in diverse classrooms;
- used to assess all children, including children who are developing typically, children with disabilities, and children who demonstrate competencies that exceed widely held expectations;
- used with any developmentally appropriate early childhood curriculum; and available in both English and Spanish.



Benefits of *Teaching Strategies GOLD*® for Kindergarten Entry Assessment in New Jersey

- Comprehensive measurement of children's knowledge, skills, and behaviors at the beginning of kindergarten
- Ongoing formative assessment throughout the kindergarten year to inform instruction and build strong partnerships with families
- An efficient system for collecting evidence of children's learning from multiple sources, over time and across domains
- A free mobile app that enables teachers to capture documentation quickly through photos, audio, video, and text notes
- Online professional development modules and embedded professional development support
- Interrater reliability certification to support accurate assessment ratings
- Progressions of development and learning that help teachers identify each child's current developmental levels, likely next steps, and progress over time
- Information that helps educators compare each child's performance with widely held expectations for children of the same age or grade
- A dedicated family portal that strengthens and simplifies communication with families
- Easily understood reports for teachers, family members, administrators, and policymakers
- Assessment data that teachers use to respond to children's needs immediately, individualize learning activities on a daily basis, plan future learning experiences, and communicate with families
- Assessment data that administrators use as they make programmatic decisions
- Activities that help teachers collect information about children's development and learning
- Activities that promote children's continued development and learning in all domains

For additional information, contact
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