

# Tip Sheet: Using Authentic Assessment for Progress Monitoring

This tip sheet outlines recommended authentic assessment practices that can be used to gather information for monitoring and analyzing children’s progress when reviewing and/or amending the IEP. Use the practices outlined below to guide your thinking and practice.

Recommended Practice	Considerations
<p><b>Ask</b> parents, other caregivers, and teachers about changes in the activities that comprise the child’s everyday experiences</p>	<p>Identify changes to the types of activities that make up the child’s life - have there been changes in activities and routines in home, community, and classroom settings?</p> <p>Has there been a change in the child’s participation since the most recent changes (e.g., new instructional strategies, attendance to a new placement)?</p>
<p><b>Observe</b> the child’s participation in everyday activities and routines</p>	<p>In what new or emerging activities is the child participating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Play (e.g., drawing, painting, sensory play)?</li> <li>● Music/movement (e.g., playing Simon Says, singing)</li> <li>● Physical (swinging, climbing, running)</li> <li>● Adult-child (e.g., looking at books, engaging in pretend play)</li> <li>● Everyday routines (toileting, dressing, meals)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Identify</b> the context-specific child functional behavior used in everyday activities</p>	<p>Use observation, teacher observation, and/or parent/caregiver support</p> <p>Attend to HOW the child participates in activities and daily routines</p> <p>Consider what types of new behaviors or skills the child uses when interacting with the environment (toys, materials, people)</p> <p>Pay particular attention to new or emerging skills/abilities</p>
<p><b>Understand</b> the behaviors that sustain child engagement in activities (strengths, interests, etc.)</p>	<p>Note or observe the activities and conditions under which the child stays engaged and does his or her best (e.g., what time of day, what location, what activity, etc.)</p>
<p><b>Determine</b> which materials and/or adult interactional or instructional strategies promote optimal levels of competence</p>	<p>Observe and determine what material, people, events, and actions are a child’s favorites</p> <p>Watch for new things that cause laughter, excitement, and/or engagement</p>

Content adapted from the DEC Recommended Practices Authentic Child Assessment Practices Checklist: [https://ectacenter.org/~pdfs/decpr/ASM-3\\_Authentic\\_Child\\_Assessment\\_2018.pdf](https://ectacenter.org/~pdfs/decpr/ASM-3_Authentic_Child_Assessment_2018.pdf)