



Teaching Strategies GOLD Assessment Procedure



Head Start Performance Standard	ECEAP Performance Standard
<u>1302.33</u>	<u>E-11</u>

Purpose

Teaching Strategies GOLD (TSG) is the formal ongoing assessment system used in our center-based programs. The Child Assessment Portfolio/Objectives for Development and Learning (ODL) Rating Scale is how we assess the developmental progress of each child.

Procedure

The Child Assessment Portfolio will be part of the child’s record and will become the basis for the child’s Individual Learning Plan (ILP) that is completed in partnership with the family and classroom planning. The TSG online assessment system is used to collect and hold the observational assessment data for all assessed areas of children’s development and learning. This helps the teacher know and understand what each child needs to best plan for intentional experiences and instructional strategies within an engaging and challenging curriculum. TSG is inclusive of children with disabilities, children who are English language or Dual language learners, and children who demonstrate competencies beyond typical developmental expectations. TSG recognizes that young children’s development occurs at an uneven pace, changes rapidly, and that development and learning are interrelated and overlapping.

All lead and assistant teachers must take the Interrater Reliability certification, Preschool or Infant Toddler, including dual language learners and children with disabilities, in TSG within 6 months of hire.

The assessment/checkpoint periods are as follows:

- **Part Day/Part Year** Head Start and ECEAP: occurs **three times per year** (Fall, Winter, and Spring)
- **Full Year** Early Head Start Center Based and Head Start Center Based: occurs **four times per year** (Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer)

Assessment Period	Observation Collection Timeframe	Checkpoint Due Date
Fall	August 1 st - November 15 th	November 15 th
Winter	November 16 th – February 15 th	February 15 th
Spring	February 16 th - May 15 th	May 15 th
Summer	May 16 th – August 15 th	August 15 th

Teachers will begin completing the checkpoint assessment at least two weeks before the due date to ensure there is substantial time and documentation to make accurate assessments.

Home Language Survey

Education staff must complete a Home Language Survey for all children within two weeks of the first day of service to support children’s individual needs and development and enter data into TSG. For children determined to be Dual Language Learners based on the results of their Home Language Survey, objectives 37 and 38, the English Language Acquisition objectives, will also be assessed.

Parent Baseline Assessment (Preschool Only)

Will be completed with families at initial conference, fall conference and winter conference. Teachers will encourage families to further participate by asking them to share observations about their child from home (parent baseline assessment).

Weekly Lesson Planning

Teachers will utilize the TSG Digital Library and Creative Curriculum CLOUD to create weekly lesson plans.

- Lesson Plans must be completed and submitted for coach review **2 weeks in advance**.
- Double-sided sites must create lesson plans for **both AM and PM** sessions.
- Teachers will add families to the TSG Family Tab and invite family members to set up a MyTeachingStrategies Family account so they can access resources and messages shared with children's families.

Observations and Work Samples

Teaching staff will consistently record and collect observations and documentation of children's development and learning.

Documentation must include

- thoroughly written individualized anecdotal observations
- photos of children engaged in classroom experiences
- examples of children's artwork and writing.

Observations are objective, void of judgement and contain enough context to support teachers to make valid assessment decisions. Each observation states exactly what the child is doing at the moment of observation.

When entering documentation into the TSG online portfolio, teachers will add preliminary levels to ensure the data accurately reflects children's current knowledge, skills, and abilities. Assigning preliminary levels also supports teachers to quickly and effectively individualize instruction.

Teachers must ensure they have at **least one piece of documentation for each child for each objective /dimension** across all developmental areas to support the completion of TSG checkpoint ratings. Teachers will generate the Documentation Status Report regularly to track children's progress and development and inform planning and instruction.

All written observations must show the significance of the experience of the individual child. Group observations are used sparingly, must be individualized, and show the significance of the experiences for each child.

Checkpoints

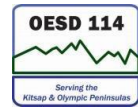
Three/four (based on assessment period) times during the year, teachers will review and analyze the documentation they have collected for each child. Teachers will assess each child's development and learning and determine where a child is on the Objectives for Development and Learning (ODL). This is done for each TSG objective and dimension. All objectives and dimensions will be assessed.

After finalizing checkpoint ratings after each assessment period, teachers will generate an **Individual Child Profile Report** and **Development and Learning Report for each child**.

- The **Individual Child Report** allows the teacher to see how each child is developing and learning in comparison to the widely held expectations for his/her age range.
 - should be reviewed before meeting with each child's family to share assessment information
 - Does not need to be given to families
 - Attach to Child Plus Education Section
- The **Development and Learning Report** shows what each child is currently able to do in relation to the selected objectives and dimensions. It also highlights the next level of development and learning.
 - is reviewed before meeting with each child's family to share assessment information
 - Is to be given to families



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All children who are in the TS Gold Assessment system at the time of checkpoint due dates must have finalized checkpoints. However, **if a child is newly enrolled or has had significant absences** during the checkpoint period, you can select “Not Observed.” Selecting “Not Observed” should only be used in rare circumstances because using this rating for too many objectives/dimensions for a child record will prevent that child record from appearing in outcomes reports such as the Snapshot Report, the Snapshot (Birth Through Third Grade) Report, the Comparative Report, and the Growth (Birth Through Third Grade) Report. Teachers should let their Coach and Program Manager know when this occurs.

Preparing for conference

Be prepared to share ODL, complete new parent baseline, Development and Learning Report and examples of work and observations. These data documents and partnership with each family starts the development of Individual Learning Plan (ILP). See ILP Procedure. Prior to the last conference of the year, it is optional to print the child’s entire portfolio to share with the family.

Class Profile Report

After each rating period, teachers will generate a **Class Profile report**.

- Teachers will review the report to identify the strengths and areas that need support for children.
- Teachers will work with their coach to complete the TSG Reflection form each assessment period (3 times a year) to document how they are using the school readiness assessment information to inform their curriculum planning and individualization.

If a child drops or transfers, Early Head Start and Head Start teachers should let the Child Development Program Manager know as soon as possible. The child will need to be archived or transferred in TSG. Teachers should not delete children from the TSG system. The Child Development Program Manager or coaches will archive the children for the Head Start teachers. For ECEAP only, DCYF/ECEAP archives children. All ECEAP children are uploaded to TSG from the ELMS DATA Base. ECEAP Only- Please make sure that you have entered the child’s first day of service into the ELMS system for the upload to occur.