AEPS (Assessment and Evaluation Programming System) and HELP (Hawaii Early Learning Profile): Which to Choose?

Jen Brown, UNM CDD ECN
Andy Gomm, NM FIT
Deanna Vick, Alta Mira
Jessi Stockwell, ENMRSH

Overview of the Session

• Introduction
• FIT Requirements
• Specific comparisons and considerations
• Provider perspective of each tool
• Next Steps
Introduction & Background

• Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge funding opportunity
• Assessment tools and materials survey
• Timelines and process for purchase

FIT Standards

• Ongoing-Assessment:
  • **Definition:** Using observation, parent input, and assessment tools to identify the unique strengths, needs, and developmental functioning and progress of a child, and, to inform intervention practices. On-going assessment information should be used at a minimum to inform the following:
    o IFSP goals and strategies
    o Exit ECO ratings
    o Annual re-determination of eligibility
    o Changes in services and supports.
FIT Standards

**Process:** On-going Assessment is a process that occurs every visit. It includes the use of observation, thinking together with a family around the child’s skills and behaviors in every day routines and activities, and the use of a FIT approved curriculum-based assessment tool that provides a framework for intervention...

**Approved Tools:**
- Assessment, Evaluation, and Programming System for Infants and Children (AEPS)
- Hawaii Early Learning Profile (HELP)
- Oregon Project Skills Inventory [*with NMSBV]*
- Other tools as approved by the FIT Program

---

Comparison of the Tools - Similarities

**Both** the AEPS and the HELP are curriculum-based assessment tools with a linked system approach.

**Both** contain manuals that provide information and guidance on:
- Gathering information from families
- Administration of items
- Measurement of child progress
- Sharing information with families, including WHY skills are important and how charts can be used to illustrate the child’s progress
- Tips and considerations for adaptations
- Intervention and/or teaching skills, i.e. – the curriculum
HELP® – Hawaii Early Learning Profile (Birth-3 years)
Comprehensive, ongoing, family-centered curriculum-based assessment

Initially: meet with family to identify priorities and child needs (#157-Family Interview)

1. On-going: (with family) use Inside HELP (#159) to plan, guidelines and criteria

HELP at Home Parent Handouts

3. Based on Strands assessment and family priorities, photocopy (#156) activity sheets - handout to family

4. Provide instruction, record progress (#158) and continue ongoing assessment

All HELP products use the same skill numbers for easy cross-reference e.g., 3.21

2. Assess/record progress in Strands (#158); select next developmental skill(s); share Charts with parents

HELP Strands Assessment Record

A Linked System

Program Goals & Philosophy

Assessment
Goal Development
Evaluation
Intervention
### Comparison of the Tools - Differences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>AEPS</strong></th>
<th><strong>HELP</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Skills are more functional</td>
<td>• Skills are more discrete (test-like)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Curriculum/intervention suggestions are in the AEPS Curriculum&lt;br&gt;  • The organization of the book is <em>primarily narrative only</em></td>
<td>• Curriculum/intervention suggestions are in the HELP at Home&lt;br&gt;  • Set of reproducible handouts <em>designed for use and discussion with families</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Offers optional (at cost) AEPSi to provide electronic records and ECO ratings</td>
<td>• Offers online resources/tools, including a color-coded reference for ECO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Scores are in the form of Raw Scores</td>
<td>• Scores are in the form of age-ranges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Offers CD with reproducible masters of all forms, English/Spanish versions available</td>
<td>• Paper versions of forms can only be purchased (no masters on CD); online version in development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Perspectives on the AEPS and the HELP

- How do you use the tool to support your work?
- How easy or difficult was it to learn how to use the tool?
- What is your favorite aspect of the tool?
- Any other questions?
For More Information on the AEPS

Webinar on the use of the AEPS:  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xC5GrsTm5AA&t=1194s

Link to the AEPS Materials on publishers site:  

For More Information on the HELP

Website on the use of the HELP:  

Link to the HELP Materials on publishers site:  
http://www.vort.com/home.php?cat=1
Next Steps

• **For ALL Provider Agencies**: complete the Needs Assessment Survey Monkey NO LATER THAN October 13, 2017 (link also on FIT-listserve)
  
  https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YBZGD3T

• For Provider Agencies who have not yet chosen an ongoing assessment tool:
  1) Visit recommended resources as needed
  2) Discuss options with your ECN Consultant
  3) **CHOOSE a tool ASAP**
  4) Complete the Needs Assessment Survey

---

Thank You For Participating!

Please complete the evaluation to access your certificate – for LIVE webinar participants only.