

# CHILD & FAMILY ASSESSMENT

An initial assessment, performed by two or more individuals representing at least two disciplines, is required prior to the development of an Individualized Family Service Plan for eligible children.

Observation is an important part of the assessment process. The team will want to watch what the child does, learn about the child's interests, and see how the child reacts to others and the surroundings. Watching the child play, eat a snack and transition from one activity to another can help the team to learn more about the child and family's interests, strengths and resources. Let the family know that the team will ask questions so that they can get to know the family. Explain that these questions are meant to help the team to learn more about the child and family and how the family would like to be supported around different routines and activities.

Those participating in the Child & Family Assessment should:

- Ask open-ended questions,
- Allow families the time to answer the questions,
- Use strengths– and interest-based questions,
- Use prompts and observation to encourage the family to describe various routines and activities; and
- Ask the family how they want to be involved and if they would like to involve others in the process, such as other family members, teachers or other caregivers.

## Preparation:

- Share Child and Family Assessment Guide for Families in English or Spanish
- Explain that knowing the child's typical routines and activities will help to develop the IFSP.
- Explain that this is an opportunity for families to identify their concerns, priorities and resources
- Families can decide how much or how little they would like to share with the team.
- Families may identify multiple priorities and multiple outcomes.
- We want children to have many opportunities to practice new skills.



## Sample Questions

- What activities do you and your child do on a typical day?
- Tell me how your child participates in \_\_\_\_.
- Tell me how s/he interacts with others during \_\_\_\_.
- What are some things you like to do as a family?
- What are your child's favorite things to do?
- What community activities or places do you participate?

*Adapted from The Early Intervention Workbook*

# SAMPLE SCRIPT

“Your child has been made eligible for the Arizona Early Intervention Program. The next step in this process is to meet with you, and anyone who supports you in the care and development and your child. You decide who should be present at this meeting.

Today we will be completing the Child and Family Assessment. We will try to learn more about your child and family, and the priorities and concerns you have regarding your child’s development. What we know about child development is that children learn best in a natural setting, like your home. They learn best doing the things they love to do, and doing the things they get to do most often. For this reason, we will take great care in learning what everyday activities look like for you and your family.

This is an opportunity for you to share with your team what is going well throughout the day, and what things your child is really struggling with. This will help your team learn how they can best support you and your child.

This guide (*hand out the Child and Family Assessment Guide for Families*) is a tool to help you think about what you want to share with your team. We ask that you take a close look at the different activities listed, and decide which ones you would like to talk about in greater detail. You can use the guide to write your thoughts down, or to follow along during our discussion.

While it is natural for you to focus on a skill that your child is struggling with, as you think about the upcoming meeting, we’d like you to consider activities or routines in which the lack of having this skill really impacts your child. As mentioned before, we know that children learn best by participating in everyday activities and routines, so your team will really want to understand which ones are important to you.”

## **Additional Technical Assistance on Child and Family Assessments:**

**Asset Based Context Matrix:** [https://www.azdes.gov/uploadedFiles/Arizona\\_Early\\_Intervention\\_Program/asset\\_based\\_context\\_matrix.pdf](https://www.azdes.gov/uploadedFiles/Arizona_Early_Intervention_Program/asset_based_context_matrix.pdf)

**Functional Assessments Webinar I:** [http://www.nau.edu/uploadedFiles/Academic/SBS/IHD/Programs/ASDTP/Training\\_Videos/Functional%20Assessments%201.pptx](http://www.nau.edu/uploadedFiles/Academic/SBS/IHD/Programs/ASDTP/Training_Videos/Functional%20Assessments%201.pptx)

**Functional Assessments Webinar II:** [http://www.nau.edu/uploadedFiles/Academic/SBS/IHD/Programs/ASDTP/Training\\_Videos/Functional%20Assessments%202-Final.pptx](http://www.nau.edu/uploadedFiles/Academic/SBS/IHD/Programs/ASDTP/Training_Videos/Functional%20Assessments%202-Final.pptx)

**Using Assessment discussion Guide:** [http://www.nau.edu/uploadedFiles/Academic/SBS/IHD/Programs/ASDTP/Training\\_Videos/Assessment%20Video%20questions.pdf](http://www.nau.edu/uploadedFiles/Academic/SBS/IHD/Programs/ASDTP/Training_Videos/Assessment%20Video%20questions.pdf)

**Child and Family Assessment Video Clip:** <http://www.nau.edu/SBS/IHD/Programs/ASDTP/Training-Videos/Child>