

Role of Assessment in R&R



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Webinar Objectives

- Discuss current use of child assessment in early childhood
- Discuss the definition of assessment & consider how to use it for different purposes
- Examine the role of formative assessment within R&R
- Consider practical applications of the assessment component of R&R in early childhood classrooms

Findings from a Recent Study of States' Assessment Policies (NIEER, 2012)

- Most states required pre-k programs to collect child assessments (n=43)
- Most states used child assessments to
 - improve practice
 - track child & program outcomes
 - make adjustments to curricula
- < 35% used child assessment to determine K readiness or to make changes to pre-k program

More Findings....

- In ~50% of states programs chose their child assessment measures, including locally designed measures
- Most instruments assessed multiple domains
- No single measure used predominantly across states
 - Two most common were TSG/CCDC (12 states) & WSS (8 states)
 - Next most common were COR (4), DSC (3), PPVT (3), DIAL (2), state-developed (2)

More Findings...

Of the 9 states using TSG, the purposes were:

- PD (n=9)
- Track child/program level outcomes (n=8)
- Make adjustments to curricula (n=7)
- Make program funding decisions (n=2)

Other reported uses by individual states included: evaluating teacher performance, measuring K readiness, identifying programs for sanctions, & making changes to state policy.

Good News... Bad News...

The Daily News

July 20, 1969

Moon landing

Apollo 11 was the first spaceflight that landed humans on the Moon. Americans Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, on July 20, 1969, at 20:18 UTC.

Armstrong became the first to step onto the lunar surface six hours later on July 21 at 02:56 UTC before.

The Daily News

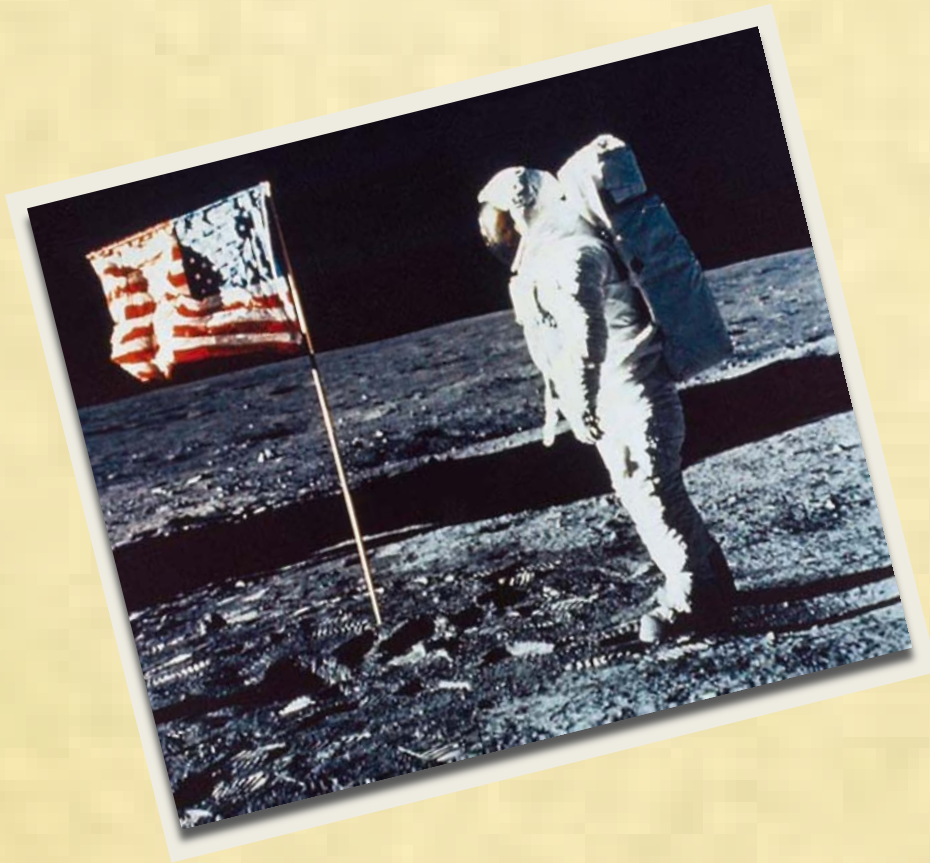
April 15, 1912

Titanic sinks

2:20 a.m. on April 15, the British ocean liner Titanic sank into the Atlantic Ocean south of Newfoundland. The massive ship, which carried 2,200 passengers and crew, had struck an iceberg two and half hours before.

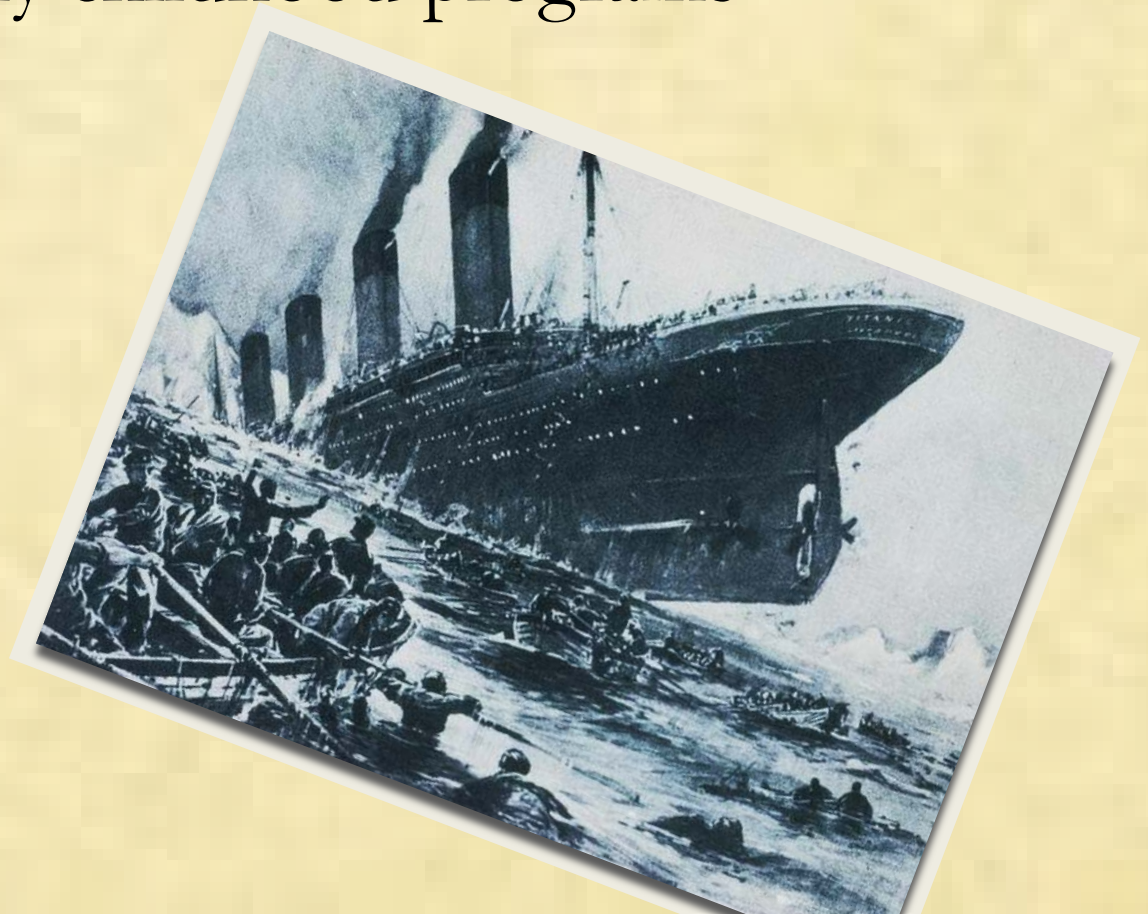
Good News...

- Most states are gathering child assessment data



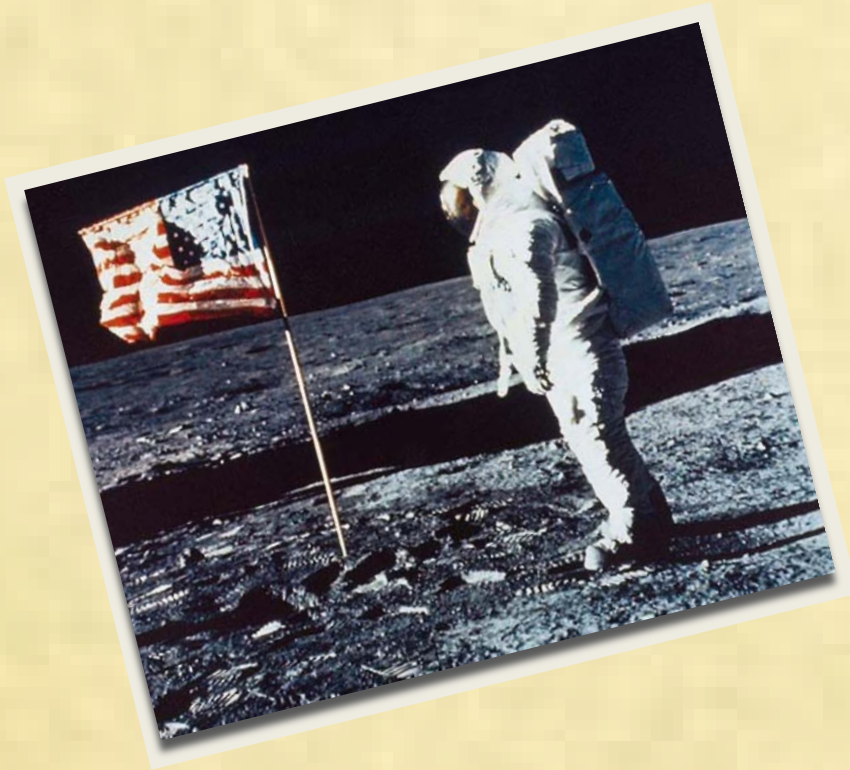
Bad news...

- No broad consensus on which measures should be used in early childhood programs



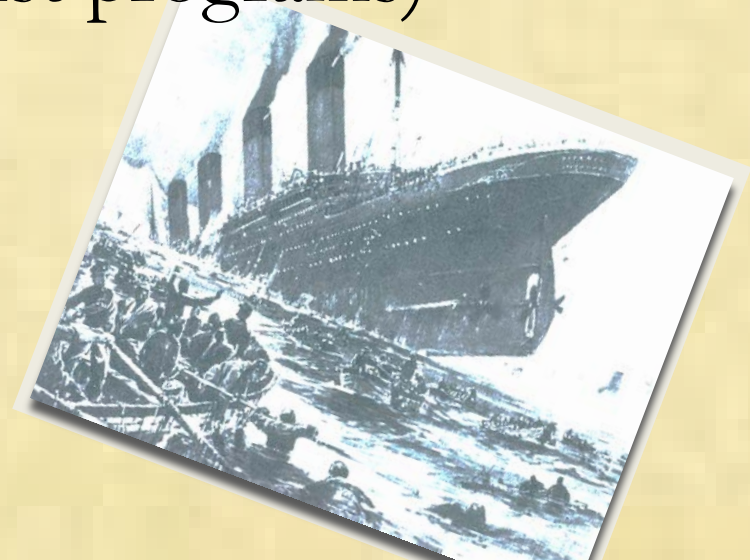
Good news...

- Most states are using a systematic approach & some states are using standardized measures



Bad news...

- A mismatch between the types of tools that are being used & the stated purposes of child assessment
- Potential misuse of child assessment results (corrective action taken against programs)



Taking a Fresh Look at Assessment



What is Child Assessment?

A systematic process for gathering, documenting, & interpreting information about a child's knowledge, skills, or abilities based on a sample of behavior

(Peisner-Feinberg & Buysse, 2013)



Defining Features of Child Assessment

- Involves a standardized process & materials
- Entails collection & documentation of information
- Focuses on what the child knows & is able to do
- Represents a sample of behavior at a given point in time
- Includes a method for managing, interpreting, & using the information to make decisions

(Peisner-Feinberg & Buysse, 2013)

General Considerations for Choosing Assessments

- Think about the purpose of using child assessment
- Decide who is going to administer the assessment(s)
- Decide what tools are going to be used
- Determine what the process is for using & sharing the results

Choosing Assessments for Use within R&R

- Purpose: To inform instructional decision-making
- Who administers: Classroom teachers
- What tools: Brief screeners of language, literacy, & math skills as determined by the program
- Process for using & sharing results: Web-based assessment system & collaborative-problem solving teams

What are the Purposes of Assessment?

- Determine whether children need additional instructional supports
- Monitor children's progress in learning and development
- Determine if children are achieving curriculum goals
- Diagnostic screening
- Program evaluation

Purposes of Assessment within R&R

Formative assessment:

- **Universal screening:** To determine whether children need additional instructional supports
- **Progress monitoring:** To monitor children's progress in learning and development

Sources of Information

➤ Formal

- Direct assessments of children's knowledge & skills (standardized, norm-referenced)

➤ Informal

- Observation & anecdotal records
- Work sampling
- Parent/teacher ratings or checklists

Sources continued...

Advantages

➤ Formal:

- Standardized procedures=more reliable & valid
- Allows examination of child's level/rate in relation to peers
- Well-established psychometrics

➤ Informal:

- Only requires adult involvement
- More likely to capture emerging skills or skills that require judgment-based ratings

Source of Information within R&R

- Formal assessment of language, literacy, & math skills using a standardized screening tools

Properties of Screening & Progress Monitoring Tools for R&R

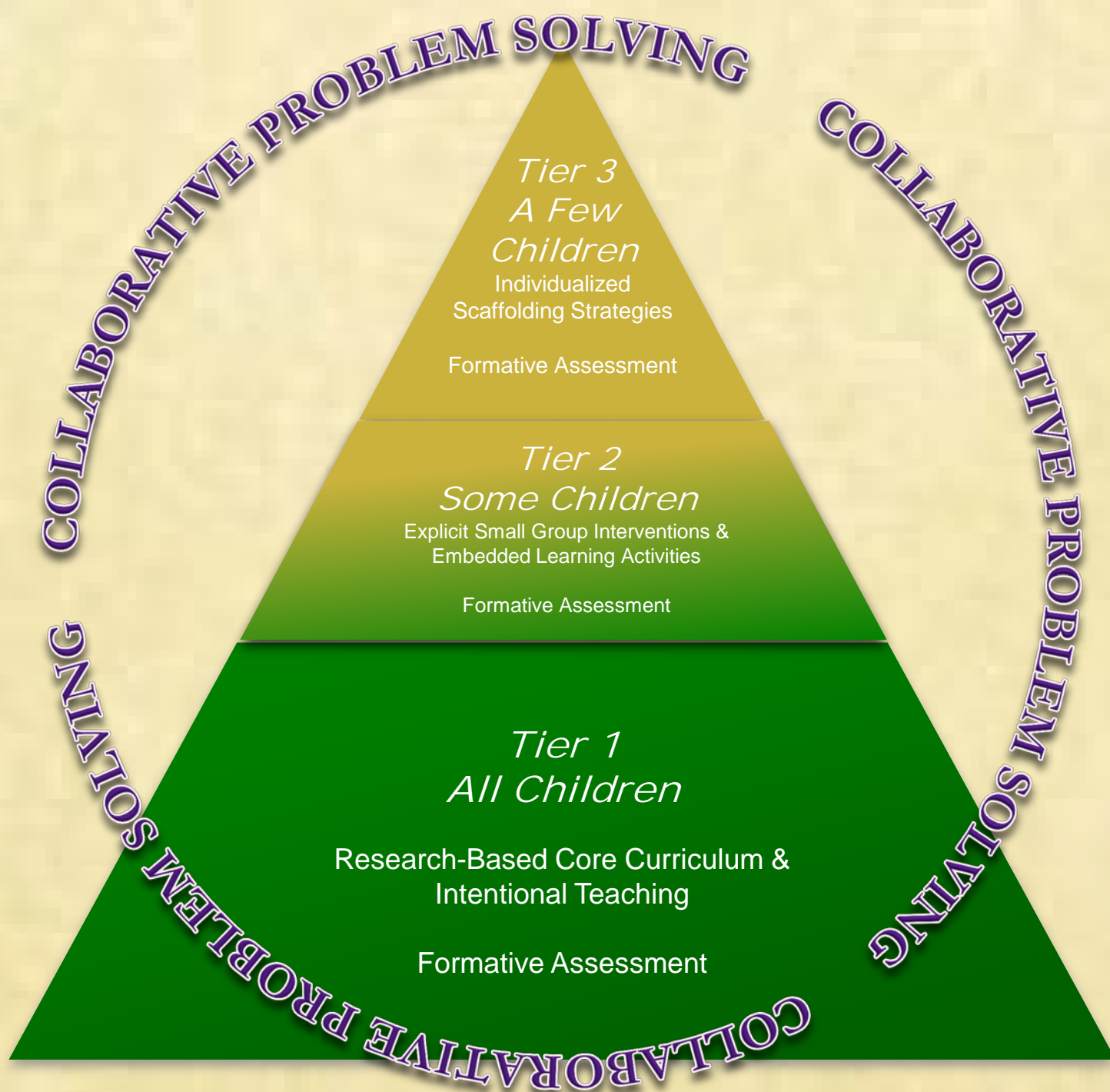
- For instructional planning, not for diagnostic evaluation
- Designed to be used repeatedly
- Direct assessments of children's skills in language, literacy, & math
- Quick, easy to administer
- Predicts later achievement
- Information on both *level & rate* of growth

Examples of Formative Assessment Tools for R&R

- **C-PALLS+** (Circle-Phonological Awareness Language & Literacy System Plus; Landry et al., 2007)
- **IGDIs** (Individual Growth & Development Indicators; McConnell & Missall, 2008)
- **SCRIBLLS** (School Readiness Indicators of Basic Language & Literacy Skills; under development at University of TX, Health Science Center)
- **ECI** (Early Communication Indicators; Greenwood et al., 2011)
- **PELI** (Preschool Early Literacy Indicators; Kaminski et al., 2010)
(Peisner-Feinberg & Buysse, 2013)

R&R Model





Questions Addressed within R&R

- **Tier 1**

Do *most* children meet screening criteria? Which children need targeted interventions?

- **Tier 2**

How well are Tier 2 interventions working for *some* children who need additional supports?

- **Tier 3**

How well are Tier 3 interventions working for a *few* children who need more individualized and intensive supports?

How Does Formative Assessment Work?

- Teachers administer the assessments to all children 3 times a year—fall, winter, & spring
- Teachers use a web-based assessment system to record, store, & download the results
- Teachers use the collaborative problem-solving process to interpret the assessment results & make instructional decisions

What does Formative Assessment Look Like in R&R?



Rapid Letter Naming



Meet Marissa



Marissa's Questions

Now that I've gathered the fall screening assessments, how do I use this information to determine which children should participate in the Tier 2 small-group lessons?



Example of Assessment Results in R&R

Sample classroom universal screening results

First universal screening/first intervention period					
Child	Letters	Vocab	PA	Overall rank	Tiers
Jacob	3	4	2	18	T1, T2
Sophia	6	10	1	17	T1, T2
Adrian	3	8	3	16	T1, T2
Olivia	8	12	2	15	T1, T2
Caleb	11	17	8	14	T1
Martin	10	20	9	13	T1
Jasmine	12	18	11	12	T1
Nicholas	15	16	13	11	T1
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮

Marissa's Questions

Now that I've completed the fall intervention and gathered the winter assessments, how do I use this information for instructional decision-making?



Example of Assessment Results in R&R

Sample classroom universal screening results

Second universal screening/second intervention period					
Child	Letters	Vocab	PA	Overall rank	Tiers
Jacob	11	15	3	18	T1, T2, T3
Sophia	10	17	9	17	T1, T2
Adrian	14	22	12	15	T1, T2
Olivia	28	26	17	9	T1
Caleb	14	20	8	16	T1, T2
Martin	18	24	14	14	T1
Jasmine	18	26	16	12	T1
Nicholas	24	21	19	12	T1
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮

Let's Review

- We discussed the current state of child assessment in the U.S.
- We shared a definition of child assessment & discussed possible uses for this information
- We looked more closely at formative assessment within R&R as one type of child assessment
- We shared examples of what formative assessment looks like in practice

Take-Away Messages...

- Formative assessment in R&R used for instructional decisions
- Programs determine the specific screening tools
- Teachers screen all children on a fall, winter, spring schedule
- Teachers use results through collaborative problem-solving to monitor progress & determine which children need interventions



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Questions from Webinar Participants

