

GUIDE: Purposes of assessment

Topic Purpose:

This topic provides an overview of different types of assessment. The key point is that SLPs need to understand the purpose for which they are conducting an assessment, and they need to understand that different assessment tools are designed for different purposes. Getting a correct match of an assessment tool for the intended purpose is critical for valid, reliable, and meaningful assessments.

Video and Slides:

Length of video: 4 minutes

Content:

The video introduces the following purposes of assessment: screening, diagnosis/ eligibility for services, treatment planning, monitoring progress, outcomes measurement, and program assessment.

Activities:

There are two activities included for this topic. Activity A is a briefer, less resource intensive option and Activity B is a more involved, more resource intensive option.

Activity A:

This activity presents 7 brief clinical vignettes (2 – 4 sentences per vignette). After reading each vignette, the student is asked to identify the purpose of the assessment using the terminology provided in the video and slides. This activity would lend itself well to a quick learning check in a classroom session (e.g. in-class polls), and the items could also be used as test questions.

Activity B:

NOTE: This activity requires that students have access to at least three different assessment tools as well as time to access and review those materials. The choice of materials is flexible.

This activity asks students to select up to three assessment tools from their clinic inventory. The students are asked to provide short written responses regarding their hypothesis as to what the purpose of the assessment is, what the purpose is as documented in the assessment manual, and a brief example of how they would use that assessment. Given the flexibility in the length of responses possible, students might benefit from an example illustrating the length / depth of answer you are looking for in your use of this activity.

Resource

The resource is a one-page graphic summarizing the content in this topic. This may be helpful for quick reviews/ reminders for students.