



Forest Hills Preschool Program



Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s),

The Forest Hills School District is required by the Ohio Department of Education to complete the Early Learning Assessment for all students enrolled in the preschool program at Sherwood Elementary School and/or receiving Special Education Services from the district.

What is the Early Learning Assessment?

Ohio's Early Learning Assessment (ELA) is a tool teachers use with preschool-age children. Teachers use the tool to determine the current level of each child's skills, knowledge and behaviors in the areas of Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Physical Well-Being and Motor Development.

The ELA is an ongoing assessment that gives teachers information to support the continuous growth of preschool-age children.

The ELA is not a test. Teachers do not remove children from the classroom to assess. Teachers use the tool to determine a child's current developmental level based on observation. Then, teachers use the information they collect to plan activities for the growth of each individual child.

What is the purpose of the ELA?

The ELA promotes structure to help teachers document, analyze and make instructional decisions. Teachers make instructional decisions based on the information they collect while observing children.

The ELA has multiple purposes, including:

- Monitoring the growth and development of preschool-age children.
- Providing teachers with the information to individualize learning.
- This process allows the teacher to form an understanding of the child's learning and development that will assist them in planning future learning opportunities.

If my child has an individualized education plan, will he or she complete the assessment?

Yes. Ohio's Early Learning Assessment is for all children, including children with disabilities.

How often is the ELA administered in the Forest Hills School District?

The results are required to be reported to the Ohio Department of Education at the end of each assessment window.

The assessment results will be shared with parents/guardians at the end of the school year. The results will be sent home with a student Report Card and Progress Reports (if applicable.)

Assessment Windows	Time Frame
Fall	Aug. 15 – Nov. 14
Spring	Feb. 15 – May 14

What do the scores mean?

Each domain (Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Physical Well-Being and Motor Development) contains one or more Learning Progressions. The Learning Progressions define a series of skills, knowledge, or behaviors that children develop between the ages of 36 months and 72 months, including children who may be at earlier developmental levels than their peers.

The Learning Progression and includes level descriptions (i.e., Levels A, B, C, D, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) that represent the milestones of a typical child’s development. Levels A–D represent developmental stages and standards that precede Level 1 and allow teachers to assess children who may be at earlier stages of development, including children with disabilities and children who are English Language Learners.

A score of A, B, C, or D means your child is demonstrating skills that precede Level 1.

A Score of 1 means your child is demonstrating skills that are expected of a child approximately 3 years of age.

A score of 2 or 3 means your child is demonstrating skills that are expected of a child making progress towards Kindergarten entry.

A score of 4 means that your child is demonstrating skills that are expected of a child entering Kindergarten.

A score of 5 means that your child is demonstrating skills that are expected of a child at the end of Kindergarten.

PROGRESSION LEVELS								
A	B	C	D	1	2	3	4	5
Developmental levels preceding Level 1				Approximately three years of age	Progress toward kindergarten entry	Progress toward kindergarten entry	Progress toward kindergarten entry	Approximately end of kindergarten

Where can I find more information?

For additional resources to help understand how you can support your child’s preschool success, visit www.education.ohio.gov and search the keywords “Early Learning Assessment.”

If you have any additional questions, feel free to talk with your child’s teacher or contact Jody Brandon, Preschool Program Case Coordinator, at (513) 388-4582 or via email at jodybrandon@foresthills.edu.

Thank you,

Jody Brandon

Jody Brandon
 Forest Hills School District
 Preschool Program Case Coordinator

