

## Building on Child Strengths Practices Checklist

This checklist includes the key characteristics for identifying child strengths and for using child strengths as the building blocks for supporting and promoting child learning and competence. Child strengths include the behavior, skills, abilities, etc. that are used with materials and other persons, and child interests, preferences, etc. that sustain engagement in everyday activities.

The main focus of the checklist is the methods and strategies that can be used to identify a child's strengths and how strengths can be used as building blocks for engaging a child in everyday activities for

promoting child learning and competence in the activities. Child strengths-based assessment practices shift the focus of assessment from what a child cannot do to what a child can do.

The checklist indicators can be used by a practitioner to plan and implement a strengths-based child assessment or to promote a parent or practitioners' use of strengths-based assessment practices. The checklist rating scale can be used for a self-evaluation to determine if the key characteristics of strengths-based assessment practices were used with a child.

Practitioner: \_\_\_\_\_ Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate which practice characteristics you were able to use as part of a strengths-based assessment of a child:	Seldom or never (0 - 25%)	Some of the time (25 - 50%)	As often as I can (50 - 75%)	Most of the time (75 - 100%)	Notes
1. Observe the child's participation in everyday activities and routines that "make up" the child's learning experiences or opportunities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Identify the child behavior that he/she uses during everyday activities and the behavior that are indicators of child interests (intense engagement, smiling, laughter, excitement, etc.).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Interview the child's primary caregivers about his or her child's strengths or have them complete a child strengths assessment checklist.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Identify the particular child's strengths (skills, interests, etc.) that sustain child engagement and interaction with people and materials in different everyday activities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Provide the child multiple opportunities to participate in strengths-based everyday activities to encourage engagement, learning, and skills and interest expression.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Use context-specific interactional and instructional practices to sustain child engagement and to promote and enhance child learning and competence.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7. Monitor changes in child's strengths and provide new learning opportunities to encourage acquisition of new skills and interests.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

This checklist is based upon the following *DEC Recommended Practices*: Assessment 2, 4, 7, 9, 10

The DEC Recommended Practices are available at <http://dec-sped.org/recommendedpractices>

Access this checklist and other products at <http://ectacenter.org/decrp>

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