There can be some confusion about the difference between screening and assessment in early childhood settings. This infographic helps illustrate key characteristics for each type of tool.

**Characteristics of screening tools:**
- Quick and easy to use
- Accurate, both in sensitivity and specificity
- Completed by parents, doctors, teachers, child care providers, home visitors, or other professionals

**Screening answers the question,**
“Does a child need an in-depth assessment?”

**Screening can...**
- identify children who are developing on schedule.
- identify children who would benefit from practice or support in specific areas.
- identify children at risk for developmental delays who should be referred for further evaluation.

**Screening cannot...**
- diagnose delays or disabilities.
- identify specific child goals to target. Screening only provides information on general areas of development.

**Examples of screening tools:**
- ASQ-3
- ASQ:SE-2
- BITSEA
- DECA
- DIAL-3
- ESI-R
- PEDS
- RDSI
- TABS
There are two types of assessment:

- **Diagnostic assessment** (professional evaluation)
- **Ongoing assessment** (programmatic, curriculum-based, criterion-based)

**Diagnostic assessment answers the question,**

“Is the child eligible for services?”

**Diagnostic assessments...**
- are complex processes that may **identify specific developmental disabilities.**
- are administered by **evaluation specialists.**
- determine if there is a delay and the **extent of the delay.**

**Examples of diagnostic assessment tools:**
- Bayley-III
- BDI-2
- CBCL
- CLAS
- GES
- ITSEA
- LAP-D
- MSEL
- PDMS-2

**Ongoing assessment answers the questions,**

“What skills does the child have?” and “What skills should be goals?”

**Ongoing assessments...**
- provide a complete **child profile.**
- identify targeted **goals and objectives.**
- help with **program planning.**
- can be used for **child or program evaluation.**

**Examples of ongoing assessment tools:**
- AEPS
- DECA
- CCITSN/CCPSN
- DRDP
- COR Advantage
- HELP
- ITSEA
- MSEL
- SEAM
- PDMS-2
- TPBA/I2