

This is a SAMPLE of the letter which is sent to parents by the Kindergarten teacher where their child will attend Kindergarten and is sent before of the start of the school year. The letter is designed to provide information to parent about the Delaware Early Learner Survey and how the information from the survey will

Dear Kindergarten parent,

Every student in our kindergarten comes to school with different experiences and with different interests, skills, strengths and needs. I want to know as much as I can about your child so that I can plan and guide learning experiences that are just right.

One of the ways that I can do this is to use Delaware's beginning-of-the-year Early Learner Survey. This Survey is an authentic, observation-based assessment that helps me to gather information about each student's development and learning.

During the months of September and October, I will be observing students during the school day to learn about their strengths in five areas of development. There are 34 objectives and dimensions within these developmental areas that describe what students know and do along a pathway or a progression.

I will use the information that I gather to develop each student's skill level related to these objectives as he or she enters kindergarten.



What are the five developmental areas?

- 1. Social-Emotional:** *learning how we feel about ourselves and how we get along with others*
- 2. Language:** *communicating and understanding thoughts and feelings through listening and using sounds (talking) or hand signals or writing*
- 3. Cognitive:** *the skills we use to think, understand and learn*

What is authentic, observation-based assessment?

- Authentic assessment means that we observe your child during regular, everyday learning activities during the school day.
- We document what we see and hear.
- We take notes, collect samples of students' writing and other work and may even take photos or video clips.
- We use the information we collect to understand students' progress in and to develop new learning experiences.