Archdiocese of Seattle
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Kindergarten Screening Tool Review

What is Kindergarten Screening? Kindergarten screening is an assessment process that allows teachers to gauge children's readiness for Kindergarten by evaluating a variety of domains, including language and literacy, mathematics, social-emotional development, and motor development. Conducting a Kindergarten screening annually allows teachers to best meet the needs of their students, and helps schools identify students who would benefit from an additional year of Pre-Kindergarten before entering Kindergarten. We recommend that schools conduct this process annually, ideally in the Spring, to prepare to receive the incoming Kindergarten class.

Screening Tool Review Process: The Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten curriculum committee identified essential Kindergarten-ready skills that should be assessed during Kindergarten screening. They created a rubric that outlined these skills in addition to other considerations such as test administration, cost, and available professional development. They reviewed a variety of tools using these criteria and identified three tools to review more thoroughly. The tables below outline the committee's findings after formal informational presentations from each of the companies listed below.

Recommendations for How to Use this Document: Each school has different needs, resources, and challenges. We recommend that schools interested in implementing a formal Kindergarten screening process review the tables below to understand the different features offered by each product. Schools may wish to request a product demo to gain further insights into each product. After reviewing the information below, schools should choose the product that will best meet the needs and goals of their unique programs.

Table 1: Score of each tool assessed using the rubric developed by the review committee.

Table 2: Narrative evaluation of each tool, including helpful information for schools interested in purchasing or further reviewing one of the tools identified.

TABLE 1: RUBRIC REVIEW	*X indicates that the tool met the specified criterion.*		
CRITERIA	**GESEL**	**ESGI**	**TS GOLD**
ELA: *The tool adequately assesses . . .*			
Ability to follow 2-step directions	X	X	X
Sequencing/ retelling a story		X	X
Rhyming		X	X
Letter recognition		X	X
Letter sounds		X	X
Ability to print own name		X	X
MATH: *The tool adequately assesses . . .*			
Ability to count to 20		X	X
1:1 correspondence	X	X	X
Patterns		X	X
Sorting by color, shape, size		X	X
Shape identification (4 basic shapes)		X	X

SOCIO-EMOTIONAL SKILLS: *The tool adequately assesses . . .*			
**Ability to participate in collaborative play with peers			X
MOTOR DEVELOPMENT: *The tool adequately assesses . . .*			
Fine motor skills		X	X
Gross motor skills		X	X
TOOL ADMINISTRATION:			
Administration of the assessment takes 20-40 minutes		X	
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & FEES			
The tool is reasonably priced comparative to the current amount that most schools spend on Kindergarten screening.		X	
There are affordable professional development and support options available for all users.		X	

** **Note:** We recommend that schools assess collaborative play during a Pre-Kindergarten Visit Day. Schools can organize small group visits to assess students' ability to interact with their peers and follow group directions.

	GESELL Gesell Institute of Development	**ESGI** Educational Software for Guiding Instruction	**Teaching Strategies GOLD**
TABLE 2: NARRATIVE REVIEW	**Please note that a Kindergarten screening tool has been developed for Archdiocesan schools on the ESGI online platform. For more information, see tool 16 in the PK & K Toolkit or email Kaitlyn O'Leary at kaitlyn.oleary @seattlearch.org.*		
Strengths	- GDS (Gesell Developmental Schedule) is a snapshot. - GDO-R (Gesell Developmental Observation - Revised) determines developmental level (45 minutes).	- Customizable - Large variety and number of assessments already available - English, Spanish options - Communication and Resources to share with parents-letters, flashcards, practice work to go home - Information can be graphed - Reports support sorting into learning groups - Provides data to implement classroom learning - Can be used for tracking of any standard - Reports provide specific information for conferences in a self-explanatory format	- Parent communication and recommendations - Provides reports - Planner available to give specific lessons to support the students with strategies to develop a skill - Aligned to WA state Kindergarten screening tool (WAKids) - Developmental tool - Helpful to track student development overtime/years
Limitations	- Not comprehensive - Expensive	Yearly subscription	- Time consuming - evidence based observation, so you have to monitor growth over a period of time - More about developmental milestones than academic achievement
Professional Development	Requires ongoing training, which leads to additional costs.	Online training included and ongoing	Requires training. Interrater Reliability Certification needed.
Cost	- GDS - $258 per kit - GDO-R - $299 a kit, $65 per year for the recording sheet, $550 per person to be trained in GDO-R	- Subscription $199 per teacher per year per 35 students (number of students is negotiable within reason) - Free administrator account - District account is available	In person training $3500 a day for 30 teachers, $450 start up fee, $22 per kid. (May be possible to obtain WAKids rate of no fee and $9.95 per student)
Sales Contact	Erin Akers erin@gesellinstitute.org	Rochelle Pokorny rochelle@esgisoftware.com	Rob Lauron Rob.L@teachingstrategies.com 310-912-0534