

Commissioner's List of Approved Prekindergarten Instruments



All instruments on this list:

- assess prekindergarten skills in all five required domains: (1) health and wellness, (2) emergent literacy - language and communication, (3) emergent literacy - reading, (4) emergent literacy - writing, (5) mathematics;
- can be administered at the beginning, middle, and end of the year (minimally); and
- have an English and a Spanish version (or are language neutral) that are both recommended for inclusion on the Commissioner's List of Approved Prekindergarten Instruments. For more details, please read the Methods and Recommendations Final Report.

Tool	Publisher	Approx. Cost <i>(Per student)</i>	Administration <i>(One-on-One, Group, Observation, Survey)</i>	Language(s)	Administration, Scoring and Reporting Format
Circle Progress Monitoring System	Children's Learning Institute (CLI) at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston	\$0.00	One-on-One, Observation	English, Spanish	Web-based administration, scoring, and reporting platform and paper/pencil observation checklists with web-based score entry and reporting - OR - Paper/pencil administration with web-based score entry and paper/pencil observation checklists with web-based score entry.
COR Advantage	HighScope Educational Research Foundation	\$9.99	One-on-One, Group, Observation	Language Neutral	Artifacts, notes, work samples, checklists, etc. uploaded to/entered in web-based score entry, scoring and reporting platform.
CPALLS+STEM	CLI (administered through TANGO Software)	\$9.50 (+ \$400 per campus)	One-on-One, Observation	English, Spanish	Web-based administration, scoring, and reporting platform and paper/pencil observation checklists with web-based score entry and reporting.
Frog Street Assessment – Criterion Referenced Assessment	Frog Street	\$13.99	One-on-One, Observation	English, Spanish	Web-based administration, scoring, and reporting platform and paper/pencil observation checklists with web-based score entry and reporting.
GOLD®	Teaching Strategies, LLC	\$12.99	One-on-One, Group, Observation	Language Neutral	Artifacts, notes, work samples, checklists, etc. uploaded to/entered in web-based score entry, scoring and reporting platform.
LION for Prekindergarten	Liberty Source LP	\$8.00 (+ \$400 per campus)	One-on-One, Observation	English, Spanish	Web-based administration, scoring, and reporting platform and paper/pencil observation checklists with web-based score entry and reporting.

Title of Assessment	Circle Progress Monitoring System
Publisher	Children's Learning Institute at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
Language(s)	English and Spanish
Grade/Age Levels	3 years - 4 years 11 months
Physical Format	Web-based or paper and pencil; Observation
Administration Format	One-on-One; Observation
Training Required	Yes, minimum 2-4 hours
Scoring Method	Computer automated (automatically scored); Web-based entry after administration
Available Scores	Raw, Composite, Performance category (On track, Monitor, Needs support)
Score Report(s)	Individual, Whole Class, Whole School, District, Small Group, Parent
Time per Student	70 minutes (48 minutes directly with student; 22 minutes to complete observables)
Price Per Student	\$0

Domains and Skills	
Health and Wellness	
Gross and Fine Motor Development	Very Strong
<i>Personal Health and Safety</i>	Very Strong
Self-Regulation	Very Strong
<i>Self-Concept</i>	Moderate
<i>Relationships with Others</i>	Very Strong
<i>Social Awareness</i>	Very Strong
Emergent Literacy: Language and Communication	
Listening Comprehension	Very Strong
Vocabulary	Moderate
<i>Speaking (Conversation)</i>	Moderate
<i>Articulation</i>	Very Strong
<i>Sentences and Structure</i>	Strong
Emergent Literacy: Reading	
Phonological Awareness	Strong
Alphabet Knowledge	Moderate
<i>Comprehension of Text</i>	Strong
<i>Concepts of Print</i>	Strong
<i>Motivation to Read</i>	Very Strong
Emergent Literacy: Writing	
Conventions in Writing	Strong
<i>Motivation to Write</i>	Moderate
<i>Writing as a Process</i>	Not at all
Mathematics	
Number Sense	Strong
Classification and Patterns	Minimal
<i>Joining and Separating</i>	Very Strong
<i>Geometry and Spatial Sense</i>	Moderate
<i>Measurement</i>	Minimal

3 = Strong; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Minimal; 0 = No evidence

Psychometrics	Score	Feasibility	Score
Reliability	1.1	Teacher Friendly	2.0
Validity	1.2	Student Friendly	2.0
Generalizability	2.6	Administrator Friendly	2.0
Growth	3.0		

The chart (left) shows the instrument's content alignment to the full 2022 Texas PK Outcomes. The skills in bold are scored for inclusion in the Commissioner's list.

Reliability and Validity Strengths:

When reported, internal consistency reliability and construct validity are strong. Test re-test reliability is minimal to moderate and predictive validity is moderate. Content alignment to targeted (bolded) 2022 Texas PK Outcomes skills is strong.

Reliability and Validity Limitations:

Lower overall reliability and validity scores are due in part to inconsistent provision of evidence. No inter-rater reliability evidence and limited evidence of predictive validity was provided.

Feasibility Strengths:

Training requirements are minimal. An extensive set of score reports are immediately available to educators, and families have direct (PIN) access to their student reports. Scores and reports are easy to interpret. Assessment directions/tasks are easy to understand, visually appealing and engaging.

Feasibility Limitations:

Observational checklists require data entry in order to obtain scores and reports. Time per student is somewhat lengthy.

Resources for Teachers:

Grouping tool with aligned activities, wide array of instructional support and professional development tools, are all easily accessible to educators. Customizable reports are also available.

Resources for Families:

Families can directly access their student's reports (PIN access). Grouping tool has aligned home activities that can be shared with families.

Title of Assessment	CPALLS+STEM
Publisher	CIRCLE Progress Monitoring administered by Tango
Language(s)	English and Spanish
Grade/Age Levels	3 years - 4 years 11 months
Physical Format	Web-based administration platform; Paper/pencil with web-based entry platform
Administration Format	One-on-One; Observation
Training Required	Yes, minimum 2-4 hours
Scoring Method	Computer automated (automatically scored); Web-based entry after administration
Available Scores	Raw, Performance category (Making acceptable progress, Needs more assistance)
Score Report(s)	Individual, Whole Class, Whole School, District, Parent
Time per Student	30 minutes (not including time to completed observations for observable)
Price Per Student	\$9.50 (+ \$400 campus fee)

Domains and Skills	
Health and Wellness	
Gross and Fine Motor Development	Moderate
<i>Personal Health and Safety</i>	Very Strong
Self-Regulation	Very Strong
<i>Self-Concept</i>	Moderate
<i>Relationships with Others</i>	Very Strong
<i>Social Awareness</i>	Very Strong
Emergent Literacy: Language and Communication	
Listening Comprehension	Very Strong
Vocabulary	Moderate
<i>Speaking (Conversation)</i>	Not at all
<i>Articulation</i>	Not at all
<i>Sentences and Structure</i>	Moderate
Emergent Literacy: Reading	
Phonological Awareness	Strong
Alphabet Knowledge	Moderate
<i>Comprehension of Text</i>	Moderate
<i>Concepts of Print</i>	Strong
<i>Motivation to Read</i>	Not at all
Emergent Literacy: Writing	
Conventions in Writing	Strong
<i>Motivation to Write</i>	Moderate
<i>Writing as a Process</i>	Not at all
Mathematics	
Number Sense	Strong
Classification and Patterns	Moderate
<i>Joining and Separating</i>	Very Strong
<i>Geometry and Spatial Sense</i>	Moderate
<i>Measurement</i>	Not at all

3 = Strong; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Minimal; 0 = No evidence

Psychometrics	Score	Feasibility	Score
Reliability	1.1	Teacher Friendly	2.0
Validity	1.2	Student Friendly	2.0
Generalizability	2.6	Administrator Friendly	2.0
Growth	3.0		

The chart (left) shows the instrument's content alignment to the full 2022 Texas PK Outcomes. The skills in bold are scored for inclusion in the Commissioner's list.

CPALLS+STEM is presented as a stand-alone instrument as there are some differences between CPALLS+STEM and CIRCLE.

Reliability and Validity Strengths:

When reported, internal consistency reliability and construct validity are strong. Test re-test reliability is minimal to moderate and predictive validity is moderate. Content alignment to targeted (bolded) 2022 Texas PK Outcomes skills is strong.

Reliability and Validity Limitations:

Lower overall reliability and validity scores are due in part to inconsistent provision of evidence. No inter-rater reliability evidence and limited evidence of predictive validity was provided.

Feasibility Strengths:

Training requirements are minimal. Score reports are immediately available to educators and families. Assessment directions/tasks are easy to understand, visually appealing, and engaging.

Feasibility Limitations:

Observational checklists require data entry in order to obtain scores and reports.

Resources for Teachers:

Grouping tool with aligned activities, wide array of instructional support and professional development tools, all easily accessible to educators. Customizable reports are also available.

Resources for Families:

Grouping tool has aligned home activities that can be shared with families.

Title of Assessment	Frog Street Assessment – Criterion Referenced Assessment
Publisher	Frog Street
Language(s)	English and Spanish
Grade/Age Levels	4 - 5 year olds
Physical Format	Web-based administration platform; Paper/pencil administration with web-based entry platform
Administration Format	One-on-one; Observation
Training Required	Yes (training time unknown)
Scoring Method	Computer automated (automatically scored); Web-based entry after administration
Available Scores	Raw, Percent correct, Performance category (Proficient, Not developed)
Score Report(s)	Individual, Whole Class, Whole School, District, Parent
Time per Student	65-85 minutes
Price Per Student	\$13.99

Domains and Skills	
Health and Wellness	
Gross and Fine Motor Development	Very Strong
<i>Personal Health and Safety</i>	Strong
Self-Regulation	Strong
<i>Self-Concept</i>	Moderate
<i>Relationships with Others</i>	Strong
<i>Social Awareness</i>	Strong
Emergent Literacy: Language and Communication	
Listening Comprehension	Moderate
Vocabulary	Moderate
<i>Speaking (Conversation)</i>	Not at all
<i>Articulation</i>	Not at all
<i>Sentences and Structure</i>	Moderate
Emergent Literacy: Reading	
Phonological Awareness	Strong
Alphabet Knowledge	Very Strong
<i>Comprehension of Text</i>	Moderate
<i>Concepts of Print</i>	Not at all
<i>Motivation to Read</i>	Not at all
Emergent Literacy: Writing	
Conventions in Writing	Strong
<i>Motivation to Write</i>	Not at all
<i>Writing as a Process</i>	Not at all
Mathematics	
Number Sense	Very Strong
Classification and Patterns	Strong
<i>Joining and Separating</i>	Strong
<i>Geometry and Spatial Sense</i>	Moderate
<i>Measurement</i>	Very Strong

The chart (left) shows the instrument's content alignment to the full 2022 Texas PK Outcomes. The skills in bold are scored for inclusion in the Commissioner's list.

Reliability and Validity Strengths:

Reported internal consistency and content validity is strong. Content alignment to targeted (bolded) 2022 Texas PK Outcomes skills is strong.

Reliability and Validity Limitations:

Low reliability scores are due primarily to minimal reporting of test re-test information and no evidence of inter-rater reliability. Construct and predictive validity not provided.

Feasibility Strengths:

Training requirements are minimal and administration is structured and easy to follow. Web-based score and reporting platform is easy to use.

Feasibility Limitations:

Designed to accompany a specific curriculum. Price is rather high.

Resources for Teachers:

Online small group planning tool which allows for student grouping by standards and learning objectives.

Resources for Families:

Parent performance reports are customizable with activity recommendations correlated to the targeted learning objectives.

3 = Strong; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Minimal; 0 = No evidence

Psychometrics	Score	Feasibility	Score
Reliability	0.9	Teacher Friendly	2.0
Validity	0.0	Student Friendly	2.0
Generalizability	2.7	Administrator Friendly	2.0
Growth	2.0		

Title of Assessment	GOLD®
Publisher	Teaching Strategies, LLC
Language(s)	Language Neutral
Grade/Age Levels	0 - 8 years old (3rd grade)
Physical Format	Paper/pencil with web-based entry platform
Administration Format	One-on-One; Group, Observation
Training Required	Yes, full day minimally, plus completing inter-rater reliability certification
Scoring Method	Web-based collection of artifacts and score entry after observation
Available Scores	Raw, Scaled, National norm scores, Performance category (Widely Held Expectations)
Score Report(s)	Individual, Whole Class, Whole School, Parent
Time per Student	17-27 min. recording observations during instruction when employing best practices
Price Per Student	\$12.99

Domains and Skills	
Health and Wellness	
Gross and Fine Motor Development	Very Strong
<i>Personal Health and Safety</i>	Minimal
Self-Regulation	Strong
<i>Self-Concept</i>	Minimal
<i>Relationships with Others</i>	Strong
<i>Social Awareness</i>	Moderate
Emergent Literacy: Language and Communication	
Listening Comprehension	Very Strong
Vocabulary	Strong
<i>Speaking (Conversation)</i>	Very Strong
<i>Articulation</i>	Strong
<i>Sentences and Structure</i>	Very Strong
Emergent Literacy: Reading	
Phonological Awareness	Strong
Alphabet Knowledge	Very Strong
<i>Comprehension of Text</i>	Very Strong
<i>Concepts of Print</i>	Very Strong
<i>Motivation to Read</i>	Minimal
Emergent Literacy: Writing	
Conventions in Writing	Strong
<i>Motivation to Write</i>	Minimal
<i>Writing as a Process</i>	Minimal
Mathematics	
Number Sense	Very Strong
Classification and Patterns	Moderate
<i>Joining and Separating</i>	Moderate
<i>Geometry and Spatial Sense</i>	Strong
<i>Measurement</i>	Strong

3 = Strong; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Minimal; 0 = No evidence

Psychometrics	Score	Feasibility	Score
Reliability	3.0	Teacher Friendly	1.0
Validity	0.8	Student Friendly	3.0
Generalizability	2.9	Administrator Friendly	1.0
Growth	3.0		

The chart (left) shows the instrument's content alignment to the full 2022 Texas PK Outcomes. The skills in bold are scored for inclusion in the Commissioner's list.

Reliability and Validity Strengths:

Reported internal consistency, test re-test reliability and inter-rater reliability are all strong. Content alignment to targeted (bolded) 2022 Texas PK Outcomes skills is Strong. Construct validity is also strong.

Reliability and Validity Limitations:

Feasibility Strengths:

Administration requires minimal student time away from everyday activities and learning. Score reports are extensive and available in a variety of disaggregated ways. Several different parent facing reports are also available. Scores are easy to interpret.

Feasibility Limitations:

Observation and collection of anecdotal evidence is relatively time intensive. Substantial training for reliable and consistent scoring is required. Price is rather high (however, several resources are included in the cost).

Resources for Teachers:

Publisher offers an extensive suite of tools to assist educators regarding the use of the instrument, to support instructional application of results, and effective instruction professional development.

Resources for Families:

A family portal is available to facilitate parent teacher communication. Family conference forms and family activities are linked to student skills.

Title of Assessment	COR Advantage
Publisher	HighScope Educational Research Foundation
Language(s)	Language Neutral
Grade/Age Levels	0 - 5 year olds
Physical Format	Paper/pencil administration with web-based entry platform
Administration Format	One-on-One; Group; Observation
Training Required	Yes, plus inter-rater reliability certification
Scoring Method	Web-based collection of artifacts and score entry after observation
Available Scores	Raw, Domain average, Performance category (Meets or above, Below level)
Score Report(s)	Individual, Whole Class, Whole School, Parent
Time per Student	30 minutes to complete ratings online, after collection of evidence/observational period
Price Per Student	\$9.99

Domains and Skills	
Health and Wellness	
Gross and Fine Motor Development	Very Strong
<i>Personal Health and Safety</i>	Very Strong
Self-Regulation	Strong
<i>Self-Concept</i>	Moderate
<i>Relationships with Others</i>	Strong
<i>Social Awareness</i>	Minimal
Emergent Literacy: Language and Communication	
Listening Comprehension	Very Strong
Vocabulary	Minimal
<i>Speaking (Conversation)</i>	Moderate
<i>Articulation</i>	Not at all
<i>Sentences and Structure</i>	Moderate
Emergent Literacy: Reading	
Phonological Awareness	Moderate
Alphabet Knowledge	Minimal
<i>Comprehension of Text</i>	Minimal
<i>Concepts of Print</i>	Minimal
<i>Motivation to Read</i>	Minimal
Emergent Literacy: Writing	
Conventions in Writing	Strong
<i>Motivation to Write</i>	Minimal
<i>Writing as a Process</i>	Minimal
Mathematics	
Number Sense	Moderate
Classification and Patterns	Moderate
<i>Joining and Separating</i>	Minimal
<i>Geometry and Spatial Sense</i>	Very Strong
<i>Measurement</i>	Moderate

3 = Strong; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Minimal; 0 = No evidence

Psychometrics	Score	Feasibility	Score
Reliability	2.8	Teacher Friendly	1.0
Validity	0.6	Student Friendly	3.0
Generalizability	1.0	Administrator Friendly	3.0
Growth	1.0		

The chart (left) shows the instrument's content alignment to the full 2022 Texas PK Outcomes. The skills in bold are scored for inclusion in the Commissioner's list.

Reliability and Validity Strengths:

Reported internal consistency, test re-test and inter-rater reliability are strong. Construct validity is moderate to minimal. Content alignment to targeted (bolded) 2022 Texas PK Outcomes skills is strong.

Reliability and Validity Limitations:

No evidence of predictive validity was provided.

Feasibility Strengths:

Web-based score and reporting platform is easy to use and disaggregated reports are easily generated. Extensive implementation support is provided by the publisher. Student time is minimal as data is gathered from observation of everyday activities and learning.

Feasibility Limitations:

Observation and collection of anecdotal evidence is relatively time intensive. Substantial training for reliable and consistent scoring is required.

Resources for Teachers:

Online system provides digital lessons planning support and pre-loaded sample lessons to use or build on. Learning activities targeting student needs are also available.

Resources for Families:

Online system allows for sharing of gathered anecdotal information with families. Families activities to support student learning in areas of need are linked and sharable with families.

Title of Assessment	LION for Prekindergarten
Publisher	Liberty Source LP
Language(s)	English and Spanish
Grade/Age Levels	3 - 5 year olds
Physical Format	Web-based; paper/pencil; observation
Administration Format	One-on-One; Observation
Training Required	Yes, 3 hours (+2 hours for reporting, differentiated instruction and grouping)
Scoring Method	Computer automated (automatically scored); Web-based entry after administration
Available Scores	Raw, Percent correct, Performance category (Mastered, Striving, Intervention)
Score Report(s)	Individual, Whole Class, Whole School, District, Parent
Time per Student	65 minutes (not including observation time for checklists)
Price Per Student	\$8 (+ \$400 Data processing and hosting fee per campus)

Domains and Skills	
Health and Wellness	
Gross and Fine Motor Development	Strong
<i>Personal Health and Safety</i>	Strong
Self-Regulation	Very Strong
<i>Self-Concept</i>	Very Strong
<i>Relationships with Others</i>	Very Strong
<i>Social Awareness</i>	Very Strong
Emergent Literacy: Language and Communication	
Listening Comprehension	Very Strong
Vocabulary	Strong
<i>Speaking (Conversation)</i>	Very Strong
<i>Articulation</i>	Not at all
<i>Sentences and Structure</i>	Strong
Emergent Literacy: Reading	
Phonological Awareness	Very Strong
Alphabet Knowledge	Moderate
<i>Comprehension of Text</i>	Minimal
<i>Concepts of Print</i>	Strong
<i>Motivation to Read</i>	Moderate
Emergent Literacy: Writing	
Conventions in Writing	Very Strong
<i>Motivation to Write</i>	Moderate
<i>Writing as a Process</i>	Not at all
Mathematics	
Number Sense	Very Strong
Classification and Patterns	Very Strong
<i>Joining and Separating</i>	Very Strong
<i>Geometry and Spatial Sense</i>	Very Strong
<i>Measurement</i>	Very Strong

3 = Strong; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Minimal; 0 = No evidence

Psychometrics	Score	Feasibility	Score
Reliability	2.4	Teacher Friendly	2.0
Validity	1.1	Student Friendly	2.0
Generalizability	2.3	Administrator Friendly	2.0
Growth	2.0		

The chart (left) shows the instrument's content alignment to the full 2022 Texas PK Outcomes. The skills in bold are scored for inclusion in the Commissioner's list.

Reliability and Validity Strengths:

Reported internal consistency, test re-test and inter-rater reliability is moderate to strong. When provided, construct validity strong. Content alignment to targeted (bolded) 2022 Texas PK Outcomes skills is very strong.

Reliability and Validity Limitations:

Minimal evidence on predictive validity provided (literacy composite only).

Feasibility Strengths:

Initial training requirements are minimal. Training data use and application in the classroom also available. Web-based system is child friendly and engaging. Web-based score and reporting platform is easy to use. Some skills are assessed through student led online assessment, reducing teacher administration time.

Feasibility Limitations:

Some skills assessed through observation checklists that require additional time for data entry.

Resources for Teachers:

Online system provides access to activities linked to 2022 Texas PK Outcomes that are easy to access. Districts may also add custom resources.

Resources for Families:

LION Parents/LEON Padres online system provides parents with access to student reports and progress as well as family friendly instructional resources and links to activities.