

## Informational sheet for NIEER National Institute for Early Education Research

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<b>The Early Learning Scale was developed</b>  by NIEER  <b>and is published digitally by</b>  The Center: Resources for Teaching & Learning	<b>Approved by Bureau of Early Learning Services for</b>  <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <span style="font-size: 2em; margin-right: 10px;">✓</span>                     Approved for PA pre-kindergarten outcomes reporting                 </div>		
<b>Description</b>  The Early Learning Scale (ELS) is an observation-based performance assessment. The ELS was developed by the National Institute of Early Education Research (NIEER) in response to requests by educators for a comprehensive, standards-based assessment system capable of informing instruction and making an impact on teaching and learning without being overwhelming to teachers. Observations, anecdotal notes, and work samples are analyzed using a research-based developmental trajectory, to provide teachers with a focused look at children’s development in the most critical areas. The ELS can be used in any preschool classroom, with any curriculum and is appropriate for use with ALL children.  The goal of the ELS is to improve teaching and learning in a practical way. The ELS covers the domains of Math/Science, Social-Emotional/Social Studies, Language and Literacy and Movement/Physical Development			
<b>Pennsylvania Early Intervention Specifics</b> Does the tool convert the rating of items to the PA early intervention Child Outcome Summary Form (COSF1 – 7 scales)?  Yes, the ELS system does make this conversion in the electronic file that is routinely sent to OCDEL.			
<b>What ages does the tool assess?</b>  Ages 3-5 years			
<b>How often are children assessed?</b>  Children are assessed three times during the 9-month school year. This is generally every 90 days, but can be adjusted to meet specific deadlines or to account for school vacations. If the children engage in an extended year, one more score period for the summer months may be added.			
<b>What on-line tools are available?</b>  The myELSONline.com assessment and data management system allows teachers to record observations with anecdotal notes, collect/document work samples and store photographs to document children’s work and development. MyELSONline.com gives teachers the flexibility of using a smart phone or tablet to record observations off-line (if connectivity in the classroom is an issue) then upload them to the system so observations will be automatically linked to items on the ELS. Teachers have the ability to create various class reports to analyze data and run reports. Administrators have access to designated classrooms and can run reports across classrooms/programs for data analysis as well	<b>What training options are available?</b>  ELS training can be delivered through in-person professional development, online PD modules or a combination of both (our recommended method). Training includes the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rationale behind performance-based assessment and thorough experience with the ELS assessment process</li> <li>Learning how to observe children (Observing and Investigating)</li> <li>Collecting effective and meaningful data (Documenting and Reflecting)</li> <li>Scoring data against the developmental trajectory (Analyzing and Evaluating)</li> <li>Using data to plan instruction (Hypothesizing, Planning and Instructing)</li> </ul> An online, self-paced reliability module is also available as part of the PD process to ensure that teachers are well acquainted with the instrument and scoring procedures. <i>*Actual training events are scheduled directly with clients on a case by case basis, as needed</i>		
<b>Website address</b>		<a href="http://www.myelonline.com">www.myelonline.com</a>	