



# LEARNINGbyte

## Assessment

## Enhancing Quality Functional Assessments



### PURPOSE OF ACTIVITY

This activity is designed to help early interventionists reflect on current functional assessment practices including enhancing family engagement, asking open-ended questions, teaming, addressing challenges, and incorporating strategies.



### RESOURCES NEEDED

- Blog Post – [Enhancing Quality Functional Assessments for Each Individual Family](#)
- Handout – [Functional Assessment: Examples of Questions to Ask Families](#)
- Handout – Enhancing Quality Functional Assessments Worksheet



### SPECIFIC STEPS

1. Before the meeting, print out copies of the blog post and handouts. Or, email the links to the blog post and first handout to participants with instructions to read them before the meeting.
2. Begin the meeting by asking team members, “What early intervention practices are embedded in Functional Assessment?” (natural learning environment, family-centered practices, coaching) Ask, “How do you know? What do these practices look like when used during functional assessment?”
3. Pass out the handouts: Enhancing Quality Functional Assessments for Each Individual Family, Functional Assessment: Examples of Questions to Ask Families, and Enhancing Quality Functional Assessments Worksheet.
4. Instruct participants to get into groups and follow the directions on the Enhancing Quality Functional Assessments Worksheet. Verbally give participants 10 minutes to complete the worksheet.
5. Once completed, discuss the worksheet as a large group. Review each question on the Enhancing Quality Functional Assessments Worksheet and invite each small group to share their responses.
6. Once each question is discussed, ask participants to develop and write a plan of action to enhance functional assessments among their teams. Reflect on the progress in your next meeting.



### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

EI Strategies for Success blog posts:

- [Functional AND \(not or\) Traditional Assessment](#)
- [DEC Recommended Practices: Assessment \(Part 1\)](#)
- [DEC Recommended Practices: Assessment \(Part 2\)](#)

# Enhancing Functional Assessment Worksheet

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Instructions: Read the blog post *Enhancing Quality Functional Assessments for Each Individual Family*. Discuss the questions as a group and select one person to record the group's answers.

1. What is your role in explaining what to expect throughout the assessment process and IFSP development?

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2. How would you describe functional assessment to a family?

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3. Refer to the handout, *Functional Assessment: Examples of Questions to Ask Families*. What questions stand out to you the most? What questions could you add to your assessments?

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4. What are some challenges you encounter when implementing functional assessment?

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5. Teaming can be difficult with various personality styles. How can you ensure quality assessments with different teams?

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6. What are some of your favorite strategies for asking open-ended questions, practicing, and/or collaborating as a team?

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