

Early Learning Assessment FAQ's

What is the cost of the training?

Your costs for the training will be minimal since most of the training, and the cost of the kits, is paid for by MSDE.

How do I enroll in the ELA?

MSDE has given Maryland Family Network a grant to provide training to child care professionals. Jennifer Lentz (jlentz@marylandfamilynetwork.org) is the contact person and can provide a list of trainers that are participating in the grant. Please contact Bob Wagner (robert.wagner1@maryland.gov) at MSDE to obtain a list of trainers who are not participating in the MFN grant.

How do I find out about the dates and times of the ELA training?

Please contact Jennifer Lentz (jlentz@marylandfamilynetwork.org) for dates of trainings that are provided by trainers participating in the MFN grant. Contact Bob Wagner (robert.wagner1@maryland.gov) for a list of trainers not participating in the MFN grant.

What is the registration process?

The trainer will ask each child care professional to provide their first and last name, email address, provider ID and party ID. Please contact Bob Wagner at MSDE (robert.wagner1@maryland.gov) if you do not know your provider or party ID (both IDs are found in CCATS).

Is the training offered online?

No, at this time the training is only being offered to child care professionals in a face to face format.

How is the training structured?

The training is 12 hours long. It can be divided up in several different ways, depending upon the needs of the trainer and the participants.

Is the ELA for family providers?

Yes! The training is for anyone working with children ages 3-5 years old.

What is the free kit?

The kit is a set of seven booklets. Six of the booklets are dedicated to the domains of learning. The seventh booklet is an instructional guide. You will receive the kit during the 12 hours of training and it will be used during the training and will be a resource for you after the training has been completed.

How do I get the materials for the training?

All of the materials needed for the training will be provided at the training.

Who would benefit most from attending?

Anyone who works with children ages 3-5.

What is the financial cost of setting up and running ELA in our program?

You will have no costs in implementing the ELA in your program as you will have access to the assessment online and subsequent online professional development is provided at no cost.

How much time will it take to set up and run ELA in our program?

The ELA is a formative or ongoing assessment that should be incorporated into everyday routines and activities that the children are doing. Child care professionals have flexibility in deciding how many and which items (i.e., skills, knowledge and behaviors) to observe. The number of selected items and the number of times each item is observed determines the amount of time spent by the child care professional.

What is the Core of Knowledge breakdown for the training?

Everyone who completes the training and the simulator and content assessment will receive 8.0 hours of professionalism and 4.0 hours of child development.

What is the content assessment and simulator?

After the 12 hours of training is complete you will be required to take a content assessment and simulator. You must receive at least a score of 80% to pass. If you do not receive a passing score, you will receive coaching from the trainer and be allowed to retake a different version of the assessment. The content assessment is an open-book assessment based on the information you received during the training. The simulator is a scenario based assessment. You will watch scenarios on a computer and rate the scenario using the books from the kit you received during training.

Is there technical assistance available to help us get started using the ELA?

Yes, everyone who takes the 12 hours of training is eligible to receive 75 minutes technical assistance. There is no cost to you for the technical assistance provided. You will contact your trainer to receive technical assistance.

I do not have a computer. Can I still use the Early Learning Assessment?

There is a paper version of the assessment available that you are welcome to use. However, the data that is collected on the paper version will need to be entered into the online system in order to access reports to view or share with parents.

What is the role of the Help Desk?

The Help Desk provides support to answer questions that trainers and child care professionals may have in using the technology. This includes logging into the Ready for Kindergarten Online system (that allows you to put in student data) and the app that child care professionals use for the ELA.

What is the role of the data administrator?

The data administrator is the person in each child care program that would put in the name and email address of the teacher(s) and the names of the children in the program. This allows each teacher to access each child in the online system. The data administrator would also include the party ID and provider ID of the program (email Bob Wagner at robert.wagner1@maryland.gov if you do not know

that information). Child care professionals that are not using a computer could complete the paper copy of the ELA items that are found in the ELA kit. They could later input the information when they have access to a computer.