

Chapter 2

Formal and Nonformal Assessment



- **Formal assessments** are tests that yield specific defined information on preset content and have specified guidelines for administration. Information is usually collected on a one-time basis and compared with normative data. Standardized tests belong to this category.
- **Nonformal assessments** consist of structured and systematic observations of behaviors within meaningful, context-bound activities. Categorical, narrative, and descriptive tools fit into this category.