

Chapter 3

Objectives



- Define naturalistic assessment, and discuss the rationale for its use
- Give examples of models and methods that fit into a naturalistic assessment framework
- Identify considerations and guidelines for implementing naturalistic assessment

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Characteristics of Naturalistic Assessment



- Naturalistic assessment refers to an instructional context.
- Caregivers and others who interact with the child on a regular basis share responsibility with practitioners for observing the child and recording assessment information.
- Naturalistic assessment addresses functional skills that will enhance the child's independence and social interactions across environments.

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Advantages and Limitations of Naturalistic Assessment



Advantages

- Naturalistic context
- Familiar and culturally appropriate materials
- Interest level of children

Limitations

- Required planning time
- Reduced efficiency
- High level of expertise required

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A Linked System Approach to Assessment, Intervention, and Evaluation



Phase 1: Initial assessment

Assessment is conducted using a tool that facilitates the direct relationship among testing, teaching, and evaluation.

Phase 2: Goal development

Caregivers and practitioners share assessment results, collaboratively select relevant goals and objectives for the child, and prioritize the goals and objectives.

Phase 3: Intervention

Practitioners develop an individualized family service plan (IFSP) or an individualized education program (IEP).

Phase 4: Evaluation

Evaluation data are collected to provide systematic feedback on the success of education and intervention plans.

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Intervention Plan Requirements



Intervention plans should contain the following:

- Identifying information for the child and his or her family
- Dates for expected initiation and completion of program
- Target goals and corresponding objectives
- A description of the places where the intervention may occur
- Teaching and intervention procedures and activities
- Specification of procedures to evaluate the child's progress