

Highly Anticipated *Teaching Strategies GOLD™* Assessment System for Children From Birth Through Kindergarten Now Available

Preliminary Results of Field Test Show Strong Validity and Reliability

Bethesda, MD, July 30, 2010—Teaching Strategies, Inc. has released its brand-new, ongoing observational assessment system, *Teaching Strategies GOLD™*, which is based on extensive research and years of feedback from educators. Available in print and online, this seamless system for assessing children’s development and learning from birth through kindergarten is grounded in 38 objectives that are predictors of school success and aligned with state early learning standards. Proven by extensive field testing to be valid and reliable, *Teaching Strategies GOLD™* is easy to use, focuses on what matters most, helps teachers measure each child’s progress more accurately, and can be used with any developmentally appropriate early childhood curriculum. *Teaching Strategies GOLD™* online streamlines data entry and reporting, includes embedded professional development support, and simplifies communication with families.

Teaching Strategies GOLD™ helps teachers assess the development and learning of all children, including English- and dual-language learners, children with developmental delays and disabilities, and children who are advanced learners. “This is one of the most important products that Teaching Strategies has ever developed,” said Diane Trister Dodge, Founder and President of the company. “Assessment information is essential for individualizing instruction for young children. This new system supports teachers and promotes appropriate teaching practices that help all children build the foundation they need for school success.”

Teaching Strategies GOLD™ has important innovations that move the field of early childhood assessment forward. *Assessment Opportunity Cards* explain focused activities for assessing critical objectives in the areas of literacy and numeracy. “Teachers often don’t have enough observation information to assess children on a given item, or they find it hard to observe certain skills during the course of a typical day,” explained Cate Heroman, Vice President of Curriculum and Assessment at Teaching Strategies and the lead developer of *Teaching Strategies GOLD™*. “These curriculum-embedded activities make the assessment process easier for teachers, remove the guesswork, and help teachers make more accurate assessment decisions.” Easily understood, color-coded progressions show widely held expectations for children’s development and learning, guide teachers as they make assessment decisions, and make it easier to link assessment with instruction. An *On-the-Spot Observation Recording Tool* enables teachers to capture assessment information quickly, and *Child Assessment Portfolios* allow teachers to see an entire year’s progress at a glance.

Teaching Strategies GOLD™ presents clear guidance for assessing English- and dual-language learners. Its two objectives for English language acquisition were developed by Dr. Patton Tabors, an expert on young children’s English language acquisition and a researcher formerly at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. “The guidance this system gives teachers when assessing children who are learning English as a second language is like nothing else in the field,” commented Dr. Tabors. “With this new assessment tool, teachers will get a much clearer picture of where English-language learners are developmentally, making it easier to help with their English language acquisition.”

Teaching Strategies took specific steps to support teachers' use of the new assessment system and improve the accuracy of teachers' assessment decisions. Embedded tools support teachers and administrators as they use the online system. These include on-screen audio- and video clips that offer in-depth information about the objectives. Additionally, each subscription to *Teaching Strategies GOLD™* includes free access to an introductory Webinar that provides an overview of the assessment system, and each includes an online course that helps teachers develop a beginning understanding of implementation. Teaching Strategies' online interrater reliability certification course offers teachers the opportunity to acquire reliability certification by rating model portfolios and having their findings compared to those of the developers.

Teaching Strategies GOLD™ underwent extensive field testing that involved more than 160 teachers and 2,500 children at 40 centers across the country. The children in the study spanned the entire age range for which the assessment system is intended (birth through kindergarten), and researchers intentionally oversampled young English-language learners. Preliminary results indicate that *Teaching Strategies GOLD™* is valid and that it allows teachers to reliably rate the developmental progress of children across the intended age range. For more information on *Teaching Strategies GOLD™* and the field test, please visit www.teachingstrategies.com/page/GOLD.

Teaching Strategies is a dynamic educational publishing company that serves the early childhood community exclusively, bringing curriculum, assessment, professional development, and family connection resources to programs serving children from birth to age 6. The company's work is driven by its mission and core values: to provide the most effective early education resources in an innovative, responsive, collaborative, respectful, and ethical way. Teaching Strategies strives to support early childhood educators in their critical work, providing comprehensive, research-based products and resources to help them as they open doors for all children and their families.