



IDELA CHILD ASSESSMENT

How does IDELA compare to other existing Early Childhood Development assessments?

Globally, there are close to 150 tools for measuring Early Childhood Development (ECD) outcomes which can make it challenging to understanding and choosing the appropriate measurement tool for different measurement efforts.¹ At the IDELA team, we are often asked how the IDELA Child Assessment compares to other exiting tools. Different tools are designed with very different purposes in mind. Because of this, available tools will be different in respect to:

- Why was the tool created? What is the age range covered by the tool?
- What information does the tool measure? Which domains of development or behavior are measured?
- How is the tool administered? How long does it take? How much does it cost?
- How was the tool validated to be used across contexts? How well does it predict later achievement?

IDELA shares several aspects with other available tools. However, one of the unique aspects of IDELA lies on **Why** and **How** it was created. In 2014, Save the Children launched IDELA to address the lack of standardized, global tools for measuring early learning, development and school readiness. Even though other measurement tools were available they were not suitable to collect data at scale in low- and middle-income countries. IDELA was thus created to address critical data needs for ECD programs in some of the most vulnerable and low-capacity contexts in the world. It was designed as a simple-to-use but robust tool that could be scaled in a feasible and sustainable way, in development humanitarian settings.

In this Note you will find information regarding how IDELA compares with other existing ECD tools. A general comparison is provided in Table 1, If you wish to learn more about learning outcomes measurement, in general, please consult the recent guidance on [Measuring Learning Outcomes Guidance](#) available at Save the Children resource center.

¹ [2022. A Toolkit for Measuring Early Childhood Development. World Bank Document](#)

The IDELA Child Assessment	
Purpose of tool	Population-level measurement of ECD for program monitoring and evaluation.
Target age	3.5 to 6 years
Domains measured	Emergent literacy Emergent numeracy Motor skills Social-emotional skills Executive functioning Approaches to learning
Type of assessment	Direct child assessment, around 20-30 minutes per child
Measurement tasks and items	- 24 tasks measure the 4 core domains - 2 tasks measure executive functioning - 7 observation items measure approaches to learning
Cost	Free of charge through MOU signed with Save the Children
Psychometric and validity information	Overall validity Predictive validity Measurement invariance

Table 1: Comparison of IDELA with other ECD measurement tools²

Tool	International Development Learning Assessment (IDELA)	Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)	Anchor Items for Measurement of Early Childhood Development (AIM-ECD)	Denver Developmental Screening Test	Malawi Developmental Assessment Tool	Measuring Early Learning Quality Outcomes (MELQO/ MODEL)	Kaufman Assessment Battery for Children (KABC)	Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)	Early Development Instrument (EDI)	Early Human Capability Index (eHCI)	Early Childhood Development Index (ECDI 2030)
Cognitive	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Language	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Motor	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no	yes
Socio-Emotional	yes	no	yes	no	no	yes	no	no	yes	yes	yes
Executive Function	yes	no	yes	no	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no
Personal-Social	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	yes	no	no	no
Academic	yes	no	no	no	no	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes
Approaches to Learning	yes	no	no	no	no	yes	no	no	no	yes	no
Number of Domains	6	4	4	4	3	4	2	4	4	5	3
Minimum age (y)	3.5	0.1	4.0	0.1	0.0	4.0	3.0	0.1	4.0	3.0	2.0
Maximum age (y)	6.0	5.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	18.0	5.5	6.0	5.0	4.0
Child Assessment (CA) or Caregiver Report (CR)	CA	CR	CA and CR	CA	CA	CA	CA	CR	CR	CR	CR
Screening Test	no	yes	no	yes	no	no	no	yes	no	no	no
Ability Test	yes	no	no	no	yes	no	yes	no	no	yes	no
Population-level	yes	no	yes	no	no	yes	no	no	yes	no	yes
LMIC origin	yes	no	yes	no	yes	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes
Number of Countries used	101	23	12	20	1	7	13	23	5	9	10
Training Required	Moderate	Minimal	Moderate	Specialist	Moderate	Moderate	Specialist	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal
Administration Time (min)	20-30	10-20	30-35	10-20	30	30	25-70	10-20	7-20	10	10
Cost to purchase and use the tool (note this does not include training costs)	Free of charge	\$275 for starter kit	Free of charge	Free of charge	Free of charge	Free of charge	\$422 for complete kit	\$275 for starter kit	\$200 for license	Free of charge	Free of charge

² This table was prepared based on information from the Early Childhood Development Measurement Inventory which is part of the book “A Toolkit for Measuring Early Childhood Development in Low- and Middle-Income Countries” by Lia Fernald, Elizabeth Prado, Patricia Kariger, and Abbie Raikes, published by the World Bank in 2017, and updated in 2022.



<https://idela-network.org/>

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