

## Guided Tour of the Resources on Formative Assessments

## Introduction to the Guided Tour of the Resources on Formative Assessment

Formative assessments are a key component of learning. The modules listed below primarily focus on formative assessments developed to assess children's foundational reading and math skills. Such assessments are important to gain a better understanding of children's learning levels and to track their progress. These assessments have also been used in the Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) approach, where they constitute an important domain of the TaRL methodology.

In this note, users will learn how to administer a simple assessment to understand children's foundational reading and math skills, through easy-to-understand videos and reading materials. Here are a few points to keep in mind while reviewing the materials:

- The assessments can be administered to all children in the age group of 5-16 and can be conducted anywhere (not necessarily in school).
- The resource materials in these modules are short and simple. These materials can be used by anyone interested in understanding children's basic reading skills.
- Formats and tools can be downloaded and used for conducting in-person assessments with children.
- A short quiz at the end of the modules helps participants to test their understanding of the modules.
- All resources outlined below are inter-connected and should be viewed in the sequence written below.

### Step 1: Understanding why we need to assess children's foundational reading and math skills

As a starting point, it is important to understand why formative assessments are so important to learning, and why there is a need to assess children's foundational skills. To learn more, the users should refer to the following resources:

1. **Watch the webinar:** First, we invite you to watch [this webinar](#) for an overview of why assessments on foundational literacy and numeracy are needed, what key characteristics such assessments should have, and how basic frameworks for such assessment tools are developed. Many of the resources in the webinar (such as sample tools, instructional videos, recording sheets, etc.) are presented as part of the documentation of this initiative.
2. **Read our note on assessing foundational literacy and numeracy:** In this short note, ['Assessing Foundational Literacy and Numeracy'](#), we explore the definition of foundational literacy and numeracy and why it is important to assess children's basic skills in reading and math.

## Step 2: Designing and developing formative assessment tools for foundational reading and math

Once the user understands why it is important to assess children's foundational reading and math skills, they should learn how to develop and adapt formative assessments suited to their contexts. We, therefore, recommend that the users:

1. **Read our technical notes on developing assessment tools:** Tools to assess children's foundational skills should be contextualized and adapted to local realities. Access the following technical notes for guidance on the development of context-specific assessment tools.
  - [How to develop a foundational reading assessment tool](#)
  - [How to develop a foundational math assessment tool](#)
2. **Take a look at samples and create your own tools:** Samples of assessment tools and other assessment-related resources have been developed in different languages, including English. These are available on the FLN Resource Hub and can be downloaded for free. While the samples are a good starting point, we always recommend designing tools afresh, with context-appropriate texts.

## Step 3: Conducting assessments using these tools

For teachers/instructors, the next step is to understand how to use these foundational literacy and numeracy assessment tools in the classroom. To do so, explore the following resources, in sequence:

### For Reading:

Module	Contents	Description
1. Introduction to Reading Assessment	VIDEO	Explores the importance of foundational reading and introduces the tasks in the reading assessment tool.
2. Creating a comfortable environment for children	VIDEO	Explains some concrete steps to make the child comfortable during the reading assessment.
3. How to assess foundational reading	VIDEO ONE-PAGER SUMMARY	Discusses the process of conducting reading assessments using real case studies. Through the resources included in this module, you will gain a better understanding of the assessment tool and will learn how to identify learners at various levels of reading ability.

4. Putting results together	<p>VIDEO</p> <p>DATA RECORDING SHEET</p> <p>PROGRESSION CHART</p>	Shows how to summarize and understand the reading assessment results for each child and the class as a whole and use these to inform instruction.
5. Development of reading assessment tools	NOTE	This module gives guidelines on item development and explains how to adapt tools for different contexts

Finally, we encourage users to take this [quiz](#) to test their understanding of the concepts and guidance provided in the above resources:

#### For Math:

Module	Contents	Description
1. Introduction to Numeracy Assessment	VIDEO	Explores the importance of foundational numeracy skills and introduces the tasks in the numeracy assessment tool.
2. Creating a comfortable environment for children	VIDEO	Explains some concrete steps to make the child comfortable during the numeracy assessment.
3. How to assess foundational numeracy	<p>VIDEO</p> <p>ONE-PAGER SUMMARY</p>	Discusses the process of conducting numeracy assessments using real case studies.
4. Putting results together	<p>VIDEO</p> <p>DATA RECORDING SHEET</p> <p>PROGRESSION CHART</p>	Shows how to summarize and understand the numeracy assessment results for each child and the class as a whole and use these results to inform instruction.

5. Development of numeracy assessment tools	NOTE	This module gives guidelines on item development and explains how to adapt tools for different contexts
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Finally, we encourage users to take this [quiz](#) to test their understanding of the concepts and guidance provided in the above resources

### Points to Remember

- The foundational literacy and numeracy assessment tools are designed to be simple to use and quick to administer assessment tools.
- These tools are designed to generate actionable data quickly and can help teachers and instructors take immediate measures at the classroom level.
- The assessment-related tools and resources highlighted in this note are global public goods, freely available for non-commercial use.
- These assessment-related resources can be contextualized and adapted to the local realities of the users.
- The tasks presented in this package are not exhaustive, neither do they constitute the only assessment activity on the road to acquiring foundational literacy and numeracy. Teachers and instructors can use the same thinking and processes to develop new tasks.

### Contact Us

For further information and guidance on the development and use of these resources kindly contact us at [international@pratham.org](mailto:international@pratham.org).

### About Pratham

[Pratham](#) is one of India's largest organizations working on children's education and youth skilling. Millions of children and youth are reached through innovative programs each year. For the past two decades and more, Pratham has developed high-impact, low-cost interventions that help children acquire foundational skills like reading and arithmetic. Pratham's Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) approach has demonstrated a proven impact on children's learning outcomes. It has been rigorously evaluated and has been found to be effective in many contexts and different conditions. TaRL is now being adapted and used in contexts outside India as well.

### About ASER Centre

ASER Centre was established as an autonomous unit within the Pratham network in 2008. ASER Centre seeks to use simple yet rigorous methods to generate evidence on the scale on the outcomes of social sector programs. It also aims to strengthen the link between evidence and action by building the capacity of individuals and institutions to design, conduct, and understand assessments that focus on key outcome indicators. To learn more about ASER Centre's work, visit [www.asercentre.org](http://www.asercentre.org).