



Preschool Early Literacy Indicators (PELI)

All children are assessed three times during the school year using the Preschool Early Literacy Indicators (PELI). The purpose of this assessment is to monitor your child's development in early literacy skills, to identify children who may need additional support, and to guide classroom instruction.

PELI is an assessment in the format of a storybook that was developed to measure preschool early literacy and language skills. The assessment is designed to identify children who are experiencing difficulties acquiring these skills so that additional support can be provided.

The PELI assessment measures the following skill areas: alphabet knowledge, vocabulary and oral language, phonological awareness, and listening comprehension. You can find descriptions of the PELI components below.

Alphabet Knowledge: For this portion of PELI, children are shown a page with all 26 letters (a mix of upper and lower-case letters) and are asked to name as many letters as they can. The letters are arranged in a picture related to the theme of the story.

Vocabulary-Oral Language: For this portion of PELI, children name 10 pictures related to the theme of the book (e.g., balloon, candle, and card for a book about a birthday) and then are asked to tell us everything they can about five of the words.

Comprehension: We assess comprehension in PELI by asking children to answer questions about the story (for example, "Who was the story about?"). We also do a shared story retell in which children fill in the missing word in the story (for example, "Early one morning Farmer Jane walked to the _____ [barn]").

Phonemic Awareness: For this portion of PELI, children play a game in which they are asked to tell us the first part of the first sound in a series of words.

PELI Composite Score: The PELI Composite Score (PCS) is a combination of all the PELI subtest scores and provides the best overall estimate of a child's early literacy skills.

PELI Language Index: The PELI Language Index combines the Vocabulary-Oral Language and Comprehension scores and provides the best overall estimate of a child's language skills.