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Learner Profile 3.0

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Introduction

Learner Profile 3.0 is designed to help educators manage standards-based student learning. This comprehensive assessment tool, which contains a full-featured, integrated GradeBook, allows teacher to import, create, and organize specific learning criteria to assess individuals or groups of students. This criteria, as well as anecdotal information, can be weighted, quantified, and entered into the GradeBook. Teachers manage grades, attendance, and standards-based criteria from one central location.

The Learner Profile package consists of powerful planning, analysis, and recording software for your PC/Mac desktop computer and your hand-held organizer, such as a Palm or Visor. With these tools, you can record your observations as they happen and review them at your leisure.

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What is Observational Assessment?

Conventional assessment puts a burden on students to prove what they learned in a setting isolated from the learning--usually, the written test. Because conventional assessment has been confined to a one-dimensional paper and pencil medium, it has little relevance to the actual cognitive challenges our students will encounter in living. Conventional assessment is most often dependent upon the child's reading level. For students who have reading difficulties, conventional assessment fails to provide an accurate reflection of learning. Better teaching and learning requires the inclusion of assessment beyond the written test.

Learning is a process as well as an end-state. To document learning, teachers must observe students as they learn: in a variety of settings, performing many activities, using a range of tools. Learner Profile 3.0 can help in a great many of these activities.

Observational assessment implies many changes in the way we teach and assess--a new paradigm for viewing the learning process. One intended change is that assessment becomes a formative, integral process of teaching in which ongoing assessments guide both teacher and learner. Learner Profile 3.0 provides a systematic record of your observations, immediately available for planning tomorrow's lessons, tracking student progress, identifying individual and group learning problems, and conferencing with students and parents.

Teaching involves more than the intellectual development of children. Teachers regularly work towards the emotional, physical, and aesthetic development of their students, as well as the development of social skills. Observational assessment is equally valid and applicable in all of these learning domains.

Observational assessment can support your teaching in a number of ways. You may focus on knowledge acquisition and application, learning outcomes, group learning skills, or individual learning styles. Learner Profile 3.0 is a new system that can help address students' progress toward meeting standards because the observer can instantly record observations about active learning.

Assessment relies on making observations that are both accurate and dependable. Though observations are subjective, there are many ways to achieve a high degree of accountability in designing your assessments.

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How It Works



1. Plan. At your computer, enter your students' names and select or create the learning indicators you wish to assess.



2. Observe. As students read, calculate, or demonstrate their learning, simply click on their name, the learning indicator, and their level of learning. You may record observations using your desktop computer, or a Palm OS-compatible PDA.



3. Report. Use your computer to instantly choose from dozens of different reports. You can even print summative reports which can be used as progress and report cards.

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Links

- [Essential Learning Observables](#): A collection of ideas to get teachers started using technology to support Washington's learning standards called the Essential Academic Learning Requirements. Here you'll find observable sets which you can upload to your Palm and use with *Learner Profile to Go*.
- [Authentic Assessment: Not an Alternative](#): An article by Michaél Dunnivant which argues that performance-based measurements occurring within the act of instruction provide a more accurate and meaningful method by which to gauge student performance.
- [Read Helen Barrett's paper](#) on the use of ICT to support three different aspects of Alternative Assessment: Observations of Student Learning in the Classroom, Performance Assessments, and Electronic Portfolios.

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Give Us Feedback

Are you a Learner Profile user? Or do you use other methods to track and assess your students as they learn? How do you use the software and how do you think it could be improved? We'd love to hear from you--your comments, testimonials, constructive criticism can help us make better software. **Thank you.**

Last Name:

First Name:

Your e-mail address:

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