To Barbara Taylor Bowman,
In honor of our beloved mentor and colleague,
Co-founder and past president of Erikson Institute,
Tireless advocate and leader in
Promoting high-quality education for young children.

Listening to Learning

Assessing and Teaching Young Children

Gillian Dowley McNamee
Jie-Qi Chen





For information:

Corwin
A Sage Company
2455 Teller Road
Thousand Oaks, California 91320
(800) 233-9936

www.corwin.com

Sage Publications Ltd. 1 Oliver's Yard 55 City Road London EC1Y 1SP United Kingdom

Sage Publications India Pvt. Ltd. Unit No 323-333, Third Floor, F-Block International Trade Tower Nehru Place New Delhi 110 019

Sage Publications Asia-Pacific Pte. Ltd. 18 Cross Street #10-10/11/12 China Square Central Singapore 048423

Vice President and Editorial Director:

Monica Eckman
Publisher: Jessica Allan
Content Development Editor:
Mia Rodriguez

Content Development Manager: Lucas Schleicher

Senior Editorial Assistant: Natalie Delpino

Production Editor: Vijayakumar Copy Editor: Ritika Sharma Typesetter: TNQ Tech Pvt. Ltd. Proofreader: Girish Kumar Sharma Indexer: TNQ Tech Pvt. Ltd. Cover Designer: Candice Harman

Marketing Manager: Olivia Bartlett

Copyright © 2024 by Corwin Press, Inc.

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by U.S. copyright law, no part of this work may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

When forms and sample documents appearing in this work are intended for reproduction, they will be marked as such. Reproduction of their use is authorized for educational use by educators, local school sites, and/or noncommercial or nonprofit entities that have purchased the book.

All third-party trademarks referenced or depicted herein are included solely for the purpose of illustration and are the property of their respective owners. Reference to these trademarks in no way indicates any relationship with, or endorsement by, the trademark owner.

Printed in the United States of America

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: McNamee, Gillian Dowley, author. | Chen, Jie-Qi, author.

Title: Listening to learning: assessing and teaching young children / Gillian Dowley McNamee, Jie-Qi Chen.

Description: First edition. | Thousand Oaks, California : Corwin Press, [2024] | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2024000890 | ISBN 9781071889213 (paperback : acid-free paper) | ISBN 9781071889244 (adobe pdf) | ISBN 9781071889220 (epub) | ISBN 9781071889237 (epub)

Subjects: LCSH: Early childhood education--United States. | Curriculum-based assessment--United States. | Curriculum planning--United States. | Performance in children.

Classification: LCC LB1139.25 .M466 2024 | DDC 372.210973--dc23/eng/20240129

LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2024000890

This book is printed on acid-free paper.

24 25 26 27 28 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

DISCLAIMER: This book may direct you to access third-party content via web links, QR codes, or other scannable technologies, which are provided for your reference by the author(s). Corwin makes no guarantee that such third-party content will be available for your use and encourages you to review the terms and conditions of such third-party content. Corwin takes no responsibility and assumes no liability for your use of any third-party content, nor does Corwin approve, sponsor, endorse, verify, or certify such third-party content.

Contents

List of Tables and Figures	ix
List of Companion Website Resources	xi
About the Authors	xiii
Acknowledgments	ΧV
Section I. Overview	1
Chapter 1: Introduction: Listening to Learning	3
What Is <i>Bridging</i> ? How Does <i>Bridging</i> Differ From Other Child	5
Assessments? Who Are the Primary Users of <i>Bridging</i> ?	7 9
How Does This Book Differ From the Previous Edition?	10
How Is This Book Organized?	11
Chapter 2: Bridging: Assessing the	
Content and Process of Learning	15
Performance Rubrics to Assess the Content of Learning	15
Working Approach Rubrics to Assess the Process of Learning	19
Bridging Learning Profiles to Inform Next Steps in Teaching	23
Chapter 3: Basic Activities as the Unit of Analysis in	
Bridging Assessment	27
Unit of Analysis in Assessing Children's Learning	28
Bridging Conceptual Framework: Basic Activities	30
Child Development Grounding for <i>Bridging</i> Assessment Activities	34
Chapter 4: Educator Agency in <i>Bridging</i> Assessment	37
Classroom Snapshot: Ms. Curtis and Her Preschoolers	38
Decision-Maker	39
Participant	41
Observer	42 43
Interpreter Translator	43 46
Chapter 5: <i>Bridging</i> and Effective Teaching	49
Classroom Snapshot: Mrs. Martinez and Her	
Kindergarteners	50
Bridging and Teacher Reflective Practice	53

Bridging and Teacher Collaboration Bridges to Effective Teaching	55 55
Section II. <i>Bridging</i> Assessment Activities	57
Chapter 6: Pretend Play	59
Significance of Pretend Play in Childcare and School	60
Key Concepts and Skills in Pretend Play	61
Conducting the Assessment	61
Classroom Snapshot: Ms. Curtis and Her Preschoolers	64
Bridging Assessment to Teaching	66
Chapter 7: Dictating and Acting Out a Story	71
Significance of Dictating a Story and Acting It Out in	
Childcare and School	72
Key Concepts and Skills	73
Conducting the Assessment of a Child Dictating a Story	73
Conducting the Assessment of Acting Out a Story	77
Classroom Snapshot: Mrs. Martinez and Her Kindergarteners	79
Bridging Assessment to Teaching	82
	07
Chapter 8: Counting Collections	87
Significance of the Counting Collections	
Activity in Childcare and School	88
Key Concepts and Skills	89
Conducting the Assessment	90
Classroom Snapshot: Ms. Lamb and Her Kindergarteners	91
Bridging Assessment to Teaching	93
Chapter 9: Drawing a Self-Portrait	99
Significance of Drawing a Self-Portrait in Childcare and School	99
Key Concepts and Skills	101
Conducting the Assessment	102
Classroom Snapshot: Ms. Cotter and Her Children in Childcare	103
Bridging Assessment to Teaching	105
Chapter 10: Strong House for the Three Pigs	111
Significance of the Strong House for the Three Pigs in Childcare	
and School	112
Key Concepts and Skills	113
Conducting the Assessment	114
Classroom Snapshot: Ms. Imani's and Her Preschool Children	118
Preschool Children Rridging Assessment to Teaching	118

Appendix A Activity Recording Sheets	125
Appendix B Performance Rubrics	133
Appendix C Working Approaches Rubrics	147
Appendix D A Child's Learning Profile Summary	151
Glossary	153
Bibliography	155
Index	157



Able resource Visit the companion website at https://resources.corwin.com/ListeningToLearning



List of Tables and Figures

Tables

Table 1.1	Bridging Curriculum Areas and Assessment Activities	į
Table 2.1	Sample Performance Rubric for Dictating a Story	17
Table 2.2	Definition of Productive Working Approach Variables	2
Table 2.3	Definition of Descriptive Working Approach Variables	2
Table 2.4	A Child's Learning Profile	23
Table 3.1	Bridging Activities Are Basic Activities	33
Table 4.1	Teacher and Childcare Provider Agency in the	
	Bridging Assessment Process	3
Table 4.2	Reflection Questions for Interpreting the Assessment	
	Results	44
Table 5.1	Reflective Questions on General Classroom Assessment	54
Table 5.2	Reflective Questions on Bridging Assessment	54
Table 9.1	Children's Development in Painting With Adaptations	
	for Drawing	10
Figures	S	
Figure 2.1	Bridging Learning Profiles of Three Kindergarten	_
	Children	24
Figure 2.2	Bridging Learning Profiles of One Kindergarten Child Three Times a Year	2
Figure 3.1	Conceptual Framework for Bridging Assessment	30
Figure 4.1	The Dynamic Flow of the Five Teacher/Childcare Provider	
	Roles in Bridging Assessment	4



List of Companion Website Resources



Full-page reproducible sheets of the following items can be found on the companion website at https://resources.corwin.com/ListeningToLearning

Activity Recording Sheets (Appendix A)

- Pretend Play Recording Sheet
- Dictating a Story Recording Sheet
- Acting Out a Story Recording Sheet
- Counting Collections Recording Sheet
- Self-Portrait Recording Sheet
- Strong House for the Three Pigs Recording Sheet

Performance Rubrics (Appendix B)

- Pretend Play Performance Rubric
- Dictating a Story Performance Rubric
- Acting Out a Story Performance Rubric
- Counting Collections Performance Rubric
- Self-Portrait Performance Rubric
- Strong House for the Three Pigs Performance Rubric

Working Approaches Rubrics (Appendix C)

- Productive Working Approach Rubric
- Descriptive Working Approach Rubric

A Child's Learning Profile Summary (Appendix D)

A Child Learning's Profile Summary



About the Authors



Gillian Dowley McNamee, Ph.D., is a Professor emeritus of child development and early childhood teacher education at Erikson Institute, Chicago, Illinois. She has worked with early childhood teacher candidates during their preparation for public school teaching as well as long term with teachers working with children growing up in challenging social and economic situations. Gillian has carried out professional development initiatives

with teachers across the United States, Europe, Taiwan, several regions of China, Turkey, and Kyrgyzstan. She speaks nationally and internationally on how teachers can listen to young children in order to become the teacher young children need to secure their future. Dr. McNamee's expertise is in language and literacy development, and in the work of Russian psychologist, L. Vygotsky as applied to early childhood settings. She has worked extensively with the story telling and story acting activities developed by Vivian Paley. She has been a Spencer Fellow with the National Academy of Education, and recipient of one of the first Sunny Days Award from Children's Television Workshop/Sesame Street Parents for her work developing an innovative early childhood teacher preparation program.



Jie-Qi Chen, Ph.D., holds the Barbara T. Bowman Professorship in Early Education at Erikson Institute. Beginning as a teacher in various classroom settings, from toddlers to middle school, she has devoted three decades to teacher professional development. Dr. Chen founded the Early Math Collaborative at Erikson, a groundbreaking initiative that revitalized early mathematics education and empowered teachers to emphasize foundational math concepts. Her career

spans expertise in early math education, classroom assessment, the educational impact of multiple intelligence theory, and teacher development. With 17 authored and edited books, translated into multiple languages, her contributions are widely recognized. Dr. Chen's previous roles include Fulbright Senior Specialist in Education, consultant to the

United Nations Children's Fund, and membership in boards such as Scholastic Education's Early Childhood Advisory Board and the National Association for the Education of Young Children's Governing Board. ondicopy, post, or dietribute Currently, she serves as a director at the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Acknowledgments

We thank our colleagues, Ann Masur, Jennifer McCray, and Luisiana Melendez, whose years of work with us in the early 2000s contributed to the development of the *Bridging* framework and activities offered in this book.

Our gratitude also goes to our teacher educator colleagues Jeanine Brownell, Mary-Hynes Berry, Rebeca Itzkowich, Donna Johnson, and Liz Tertell for their feedback on the initial draft of this book. Their profound understanding of content knowledge and classroom practice significantly strengthens the connections between assessment and teaching.

We thank the many early childhood teachers and student teachers we have had the chance to work with over many decades. Each one of you helped us grow more sensitive to and more thoughtful about the challenges teachers face in every moment of the school day when the lives of a large group of growing children are under our supervision in our hands and hearts.

We are deeply grateful to our own mentoring teachers we benefitted from as we began our careers as classroom teachers and who continue to inspire us to understand the dynamics of what we think is the greatest honor: to be called Teacher.

Our immense appreciation also goes to the remarkable Sarah Roggio. Through her meticulous editing expertise, she contributed to enhancing the book's overall structure and language, ensuring its clarity, precision, and readability. We cannot thank her enough for her invaluable edits.

Finally, we thank Barbara Taylor Bowman, a co-founder of Erikson Institute in 1966, for her unwavering support of excellence in early childhood teaching. Her career of 60+ years has been advocating for skilled knowledgeable teachers who have a vision they can articulate for what they teach young children, why they teach, and how they do it. She has been our mentor, colleague, our boss, and our friend – the best kind. She never stops asking hard questions! We dedicate this book to her and the children that benefit from the excellence she insists on – the children in families of every race, language and dialect, cultural background, and economic class in our communities close to home and around the world.

Publisher's Acknowledgments

Corwin gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following reviewers:

Catherine Cloran Teacher Los Alamos Public Schools

Poroticol by bost of distribution of the second of the sec