The Richard W. Riley
College of Education and Leadership
WALDEN UNIVERSITY

EXAMPLE:

# Major Assessment for the Teacher Preparation Program with a Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) with a specialization in Early Childhood Education (Birth–Grade 3)

## Overview of the Assessment

The Lesson Planning Project (LPP) is designed to measure candidates' ability to design, implement, and evaluate developmentally appropriate learning experiences. The LPP gives candidates the opportunity to assess students' learning as a result of these experiences, and to reflect on their own performance and teaching practices.

## Question From the Assessment

Explain how your goals and objectives align with your assessments. Why did you choose these assessments to measure these objectives? To what extent did your assessments succeed in measuring children's achievement of your lesson objectives?

## Overview of the Rubric

The rubric contains five sections: Learning and Development, Collaboration with Families, Assessment, Developmentally Appropriate Instruction, and Improving Instruction Through Reflection. The rubric contains three levels: Unacceptable, Acceptable, and Target. An Unacceptable performance is one where the candidate knowingly or unknowingly makes instructional decisions that are ineffective, incomplete, or inconsiderate of the learner. The progression from Acceptable to Target often involves the presence or integration of developmental milestones, connection between content areas, opportunities for children to explore, and real-time instructional decisions.

## Description of Rubric Criterion

The LPP rubric contains multiple rows that align with the sections listed above. Below is a sample row from the Assessment section of the rubric:

| Rubric Criteria | Unacceptable | Acceptable | Target |
|---|---|---|---|
| The candidate uses a range of appropriate assessments and knows how to adapt them to meet the needs of individual children. | The candidate's work reflects use of a limited repertoire of assessment approaches.<br><br>The candidate's explanation of how strategies align with the developmental and learning needs of children is unclear or inaccurate.<br><br>The candidate describes inappropriate or inadequate adaptations to meet the assessment needs of developmentally, culturally, or linguistically diverse learners. | The candidate's work reflects the ability to use a range of assessment approaches.<br><br>The candidate explains how chosen strategies align with the developmental and learning needs of children.<br><br>The candidate describes appropriate adaptations to meet the assessment needs of developmentally, culturally, or linguistically diverse learners. | The candidate's work reflects the ability to use a wide range of assessment approaches within and across lesson plans.<br><br>The candidate explains how chosen strategies align with the developmental and learning needs of children, with attention to the group as well as to individual children. |