

## CHLD 109: Observation and Assessment of Young Children

### Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map (IECAM)

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| <b>Learning Outcomes</b>         | 5. Describe implications of cultural, linguistic, environmental, and family influences on observation, assessment, and goal-setting methods and approaches for every child.  |
| <b>DEC Recommended Practices</b> | A4. Professionals meet and collaborate with families to discuss family preferences and reach consensus about the process, methods, materials, and situations of assessment that will meet the child's needs best.<br>A30. Professionals report assessment results so that they are understandable and useful for families.<br>F5. Family/professionals' relationship building is accomplished in ways that are responsive to cultural, language, and other family characteristics. |
| <b>NAEYC Standards</b>           | 2a. Knowing about and understanding diverse family and community characteristics<br>3d. Understanding and practicing responsible assessment to promote positive outcomes for each child  |

Your text discusses factors that contribute to current practice in assessment. The diversity of children and families is one of the factors. Knowing the facts and not making assumptions about your community, or the community where you hope to work someday is important. For this assignment you are going to use a great resource provided by the state of Illinois to help you find data on demographic information.

#### To complete the assignment:

- Review the “Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map (IECAM)” available from: <http://iecam.crc.uiuc.edu/> IECAM provides a comprehensive picture of early care and education services in Illinois by combining up-to-date demographic information with early childhood program information from state agencies, Head Start, and private sector child care. Browse to familiarize yourself with this resource and the variety of data that they can provide you.
- Click on the link on their web page “Snapshots of Illinois Counties.” This link is located on the right half of the page about half way down the page. Choose your county to get a picture of early care and education services for that area.
- Research the diversity of the young children in your area or the area where you intend to teach someday.

- Follow the link on the home page of IECAM to “Languages Spoken by Children in Illinois” or click on this direct link <http://iecam.crc.uiuc.edu/data/language/all-languages.html>
- Start by studying Table 1: Languages of Children 0-5 in Illinois. This Table is located  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way down the page.
- Then, click on the button that states “Click here to choose your county...” and select the county that you live within. Compare the languages spoken in your county to those spoken within the general Illinois population.
- To learn other demographic information, find your county in *Assessing Risk: Descriptive Data Related to Risk Factors Experienced by Young Children and Families in Illinois*. There is a link on the IECAM home page or you can use this link <http://iecam.crc.illinois.edu/pubs/reports/technical/techreport2.pdf>.
- Write a report including:
  - Summary of the diversity of the children in the county you live within.
  - The implications of what you have found about child diversity for working with and assessing young children.