

## Describe Artifact

In block one this semester I was instructed to complete a PALS and ELLCO assessment for my preschool classroom. PALS stands for Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening and is used for preschool classrooms. It is a literacy assessment of a child and is considered formal assessment. I assessed the student on alphabet knowledge, lower and upper case recognition, letter sounds, beginning sound awareness, print and word awareness, rhyme awareness, nursery rhyme awareness, and name writing. While evaluating the student I observed, documented, and assessed the student's development level. What I have learned through performing this assessment can provide the teacher with important information about the child that will help guide instruction. ELLCO assesses the teacher's classroom through informal assessment to ensure that they have the proper equipment to promote the best learning. It stands for Early Language and Literacy Classroom Checklist. This type of assessment is considered a literacy environment checklist, and it helped me become aware of the different items in the room that could facilitate the students' learning, and how the teacher should add certain items to the classroom to guarantee that the students are given the opportunity to reach their highest developmental level.

## Alignment Reflection

### Wisconsin Teacher Standard Alignment

My artifact best aligns with standard eight because it involves assessment tools that teachers use to test student's progress. I believe that assessment best aligns with my artifact because that is what PALS and ELLCO are, they are assessment tools. In using both of these I was able to demonstrate my understanding of both informal and formal assessment strategies that

help to evaluate a student's progress in the classroom and ensure that each child is learning. Informal and formal assessments are very important to make certain that each child's development is progressing. My artifact demonstrated that I have competency in assessment for the reason that I was able to complete and gain more knowledge about the students I work with.

### UW-Platteville School of Education Knowledge, Skill, Disposition Statement Alignment

Standard eight on informal and formal assessment best aligns with KSD1.f. This standard states that one must assess student learning. I believe that this statement best aligns with my artifact because in completing my artifact I was able to understand the importance of assessment and complete my PALS and ELLCO to the best of my ability. From this artifact I was able to develop my knowledge of assessment tools that align well with instructional goals of the classroom. I am more aware of how important it is for teachers to perform assessments to determine whether their instructional goals are being fulfilled and if students are learning everything they can. By completing PALS and ELLCO I feel that I showed my ability to carry out assessment correctly and gain an understanding of just how important it is as a future teacher.

Secondary KSDs

KSD 3.d Provides feedback to students

KSD4.b Maintains accurate records

### Personal Reflection

#### What I have learned about teaching/learning from this artifact.

After completing formal and informal assessments in my preschool placement I have learned how important assessment is. As a teacher I should evaluate my classroom for problems that might inhibit the children's learning and correct those problems, since it is my responsibility as the teacher to create the best learning environment for my students. Through formal and

informal assessment I have learned how one can analyze a student's development in intellectual, emotional/social, and physical areas. Knowing how students are developing will help me to make changes in my teaching methods to either continue with the way I am teaching or improve it to help advance my students' development.

What I learned about myself as a prospective educator as a result of this artifact.

What performing the PALS and ELLCO assessments has taught me will not just impact the way I teach my students, but will also impact my school and school community. Being able to use PALS and ELLCO will help me to see the type of assessment tools I could use. I believe they are great assessment tools and as a future teacher I would push for my school to ensure that every pre-school teacher completes one. After completing these assessments, the other teachers will hopefully be more aware of how their classroom needs to be improved, and how these improvements will be good for a child's learning. My new knowledge of assessments will also help my school's community because not only will I try to enforce that my school participate in PALS and ELLCO, I would push to have all the schools in the district take part in this assessment. If each teacher in my area could assess how they run their classroom then I believe student's grades, test scores, and motivation to learn will increase. In my community I could also try to make people aware of different assessments available for any situation. Just as it is important for a teacher to assess their teaching methods and students' progress, it is important for employers to assess the performance of their business and the competency of their employees.