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## Instructions for Completing ISTAR-KR Rating

ISTAR-KR (Kindergarten Readiness) was developed for the Indiana Department of Education, through a federal grant involving collaboration between First Steps, Ball State University, Indiana State University, and the ICAN Project. It is an assessment tool intended to measure a child's skills from 4 months old through 5 years of age. As a parent or educator please use the assessment instrument to rate the performance of the child participating in the early childhood program. Make the rating based on your knowledge of the child's skills; it is not necessary to have the child complete any specific assessment tasks or activities. If there is more than one rater, who knows the child, please collaborate on choosing the skill level which best characterizes the child's ability.

ISTAR-KR is aligned to the Indiana Academic Standards for **English/Language Arts** – (Word Recognition, Fluency, Vocabulary, Reading Information and Literary Test, Writing Informational and Literary Text, Listening and Speaking) and for **Mathematics** – (Number Sense, Geometry and Measurement). Additionally, there are three **Functional Skills Areas** included in ISTAR-KR – (Physical, Social-Emotional, and Personal Care). Although you are completing a paper format of the ISTAR-KR, it is provided as a web-based software system by the Indiana Department of Education for use by public school personnel and community early childhood education programs.

ISTAR-KR is comprised of 30 performance threads (rows) that are defined by progressive skills in each of the academic areas and functional areas. The skills that develop first are on the left side of a row and progress to more mature skills moving to the right. **The rater circles the one shaded box that best describes the child's mastery of skills in each row.** This would indicate that the child has presented evidence of doing the skill independently. If you believe that the child has mastered two boxes that are side by side, choose the higher box (further to the right). You will find behavior examples directly below each shaded box to assist you in identifying a child's skill level. When a child has mastered **most of the behavior examples**, the skill is mastered. If a skill statement in the shaded box is written in plural form, this means **more than one**. When you have completed the rating of ISTAR-KR, you will have circled 30 shaded boxes.

If you have questions about completing this tool, please contact your Early Childhood Educator.

Thank you for contributing information for your child's ISTAR-KR assessment.