

## MULTI-FACTORED ASSESSMENT TOOL (MFAT) FOR GRADE ONE PUPILS

*by:*

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The multi-factored assessment tool (MFAT) is an essential instrument that is designed to evaluate the academic, cognitive, and behavioral development of grade 1 pupils. They are in transition from play-based learning to academic-based learning. In this stage, it is crucial to identify their strengths and needs especially for children with special needs. I just noticed that in the old days, disabilities were not studied; sometimes, they were hidden and shamed; they were considered a shame in society. They are often left at home and considered useless and a great shame to the family.

With the advancement of science, it has been studied that children with disabilities still can learn to read, write, count, and do many things; they can even be productive with the help of persistent teaching, proper care, and monitoring they need. They also need the wide understanding and deep love of a mother, father, siblings, and the whole family, and society will accept them. Today there are many children with disabilities and they, too, can do different things. I conclude that the multi-factored assessment tool is a tool that will greatly help children with special needs identify their mental, physical, social, and emotional needs. By understanding the children and applying the right intervention, the children will develop their skills despite their special needs.

The importance of MFAT to a child with special needs comprehensive understanding of the child. MFAT evaluates various aspects of a child's development, including cognitive abilities, problem-solving skills, learning potential, and academic performance like reading and writing. Social and emotional development: interaction with their peers and teachers, the emotions will manifest. The behavioral patterns such

as attention, focus, and impulse control. Communication skills like gestures and speaking. Physical and motor skills, fine and gross motor abilities.

Identifying special education needs. The MFAT is essential in determining whether a child qualifies for special education services. It identifies specific learning disabilities (e.g., dyslexia, dyscalculia) developmental delays, speech and language impairments emotional or behavioral disorders autism spectrum disorder (ASD) physical disabilities facilitating early intervention. Early identification of challenges through MFAT allows for timely intervention. Early support can improve academic outcomes enhance social and emotional development prevent secondary issues like low self-esteem or behavioral problems increase the likelihood of the child reaching developmental milestones interventions for common challenges. Difficulty with reading and

comprehension. Scenario: Nena is a 6-year-old first grader with a diagnosed learning disability (dyslexia). She is struggling to keep up with her classmates in reading activities. Her classmates are reading the sentences well, but she is having difficulty and often feels frustrated. Here are the interventions for reading support. Daily one-on-one reading sessions with a special education teacher; use of multisensory learning techniques (e.g., tracing letters in sand, using phonics apps). Classroom accommodations. Extended time for reading assignments; reduced emphasis on reading aloud in front of peers. Parental involvement. Parents are given strategies to support Nena's reading at home; regular communication between parents and teachers to monitor progress.

#### *References:*

Department of Education (DepEd) Order 29, s. 2018. Policy on the Implementation of Multi-Factored Assessment Tool. Retrieved from <https://www.deped.gov.ph/2018/07/10/do-29-s-2018-policy-on-the-implementation-of-multi-factored-assessment-tool/>

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