

## Science

NIEER is studying how preschool policies and practices at school district, school, and classroom levels influence child outcomes. Here, Research Project Coordinator Andrea Kent answers questions about NIEER's research involving child assessments.

### **Q. How does NIEER define "child progress"?**

We understand child progress as positive, measurable growth in any and all areas of child development over a period of time. Progress does not necessarily need to meet a predetermined goal, but progress always moves in a forward direction, and progress requires effort.

### **Q. How is NIEER measuring progress among participating children?**

NIEER will be measuring progress via individual, in person, one-on-one assessments. Each assessment lasts approximately 5-10 minutes, and each assesses developmentally appropriate language, problem-solving, arithmetic, or executive function skills. This study uses a battery of five different assessments that are administered in a comfortable, informal, and conducive environment respecting children's time and needs.

### **Q. What can NIEER learn by assessing the children's progress?**

By assessing children's progress, we can approximate the amount of information children gain over the course of their preschool year, as well as understand what factors may be associated with variations in children's progress.

For example, analyzing classroom quality in conjunction with child progress allows us to approximate how the practices and procedures that teachers are both employing and not employing related to child progress.

### **Q. How will results be used?**

The results will be used to understand children's development across different contexts, and relate it to the quality of practices in their classrooms. Results will be used to improve practices across programs and districts. Individual children will not be identified in any way.