BEST

Building Early Sentences Therapy

BEST Eligibility Assessment
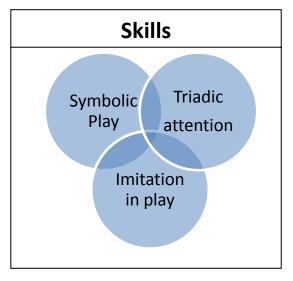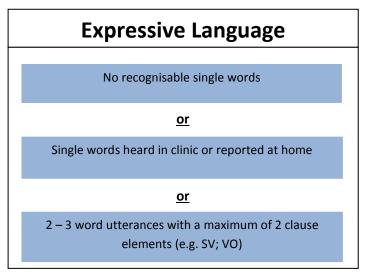
Name:	Address:
D.O.B:	
ID/NHS:	

BEST Entry Criteria and Eligibility Assessment

To benefit from the BEST approach a child needs to have the following skills and language levels

Skills	Expressive Language
Symbolic Play / Triadic attention / Imitation in play	No recognisable single words **or** Single words heard in clinic or reported at home **or** 2 – 3 word utterances with a maximum of 2 clause elements (e.g. SV; VO)

It is also _essential_ that a Hearing Test has been completed and the child's hearing is WNL.

BEST Eligibility Assessment Summary

Skill	Passes Criterion? Y/N	Date
Triadic attention		
Symbolic Play		
Imitation in play		
Expressive Language		
Hearing Test Result		
Eligible for BEST? *all 5 criteria above must be met		

Recommended Pathway	BEST	Hearing Test then BEST	Other (please specify)

BEST Eligibility Assessment

1. Triadic Attention

Aim: to observe whether, when the child is interested and excited by a toy during a play interaction with an adult, that they make eye contact with the adult and then look back to the toy, thus establishing joint/triadic attention.

Equipment

Bag; Bubbles; wind-up toy; push and go car/train

Task

- Remove one item from the bag
- Demonstrate the play activity
- Observe whether the child makes eye contact with you and then looks back to the toy
- Repeat for all of the toys in the bag

Note: This activity can be completed can be done by the therapist or by a parent/carer and observed by the therapist.

Observations

	Activity	Triadic Attention achieved at least once? ✓/✗
1.	Bubbles	
2.	Wind-up toy	
3.	Push and go car/train	
4.	Removing items from bag	

The Child is Eligible for BEST on this criterion if they achieve triadic attention **at least 3 times.**

Transfer these results to page 1.

2. Symbolic Play

Aim: to observe whether the child demonstrates spontaneous symbolical play with large and small toys.

Equipment

Teddy bear; spoon; hair brush; sock; bottle; cup; bath; sponge; cars with removable person; house/garage; apple; banana; toy phone

Task

- Introduce the toys to the child
- Observe the child's free play with the toys
- Observe and record whether the child engages in any spontaneous symbolic play
- If the child is not motivated by these specific toys then substitutes can be used.
- Continue until the child has demonstrated 3 or 4 different symbolic play actions
- If the child does not play symbolically or loses interest before demonstrating 3 actions, record this and move on

Observations

	Describe Symbolic Play (e.g. feeds teddy)
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

The Child is Eligible for BEST on this criterion if they demonstrate **at least 3 different spontaneous symbolic play actions.**

Transfer these results to page 1.

3. Imitation in Play

Aim: to observe whether the child is able and motivated to imitate adult play.

Equipment

Teddy bear; spoon; hair brush; sock; bottle; cup; bath; sponge; cars with removable person; house/garage; apple; banana; toy phone

Task

- Continue from the last activity
- Demonstrate a novel play action which the child has not exhibited in the previous task (e.g. making teddy talk on the phone/washing the car/crashing the car/making teddy smell the sock)
- Encourage the child to copy you
- Observe and record whether the child imitates your play actions.
- Continue for 4 different modelled actions

Observations

	Describe Modelled Play	Imitated by child? ✓/✗
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

The Child is Eligible for BEST on this criterion if they imitate **at least 2 symbolic play actions.**

Transfer these results to page 1.

4. Expressive Language

Aim: to obtain a sample of the child's expressive language to determine whether the child is able to use sentences with more than 2 clause elements.

Equipment

BEST Picture Book

Task

- Look at the BEST book together
- Ask the child to describe the pictures in the book
- Record the child's responses below
- Record which clause elements the child uses
- (e.g. the man [S] is washing[V] the car[O])

			✓/✗			All clause elements marked? ✓/✗
			S	V	O	
1.	Target	The boy is brushing the cat				
	Response					
2.	Target	The Teddy is eating a banana				
	Response					
3.	Target	The girl is kicking an apple				
	Response					
4.	Target	The boy is kissing a cat				
	Response					
5.	Target	The baby is riding a bike				
	Response					
6.	Target	The Teddy is washing a spoon				
	Response					

The Child is Eligible for BEST on this criterion if they produce **one or fewer sentences with all 3 clause elements marked.**

Transfer these results to page 1.