



early learning measurement tools

## WHAT IS THE **elom** SUITE OF TOOLS?

The ELOM suite of early learning measurement tools accurately measure a range of developmental outcomes in young children, and provide an indication of the quality of the early learning environment in home and programme settings. Locally developed in South Africa, the tools are user-friendly, fair and affordable.

### **ELOM 4&5 YEARS ASSESSMENT TOOL**

A direct assessment of the developmental performance of children aged 50 to 69 months old. The tool helps to determine whether children are On Track for achieving the expected developmental standards for their age, or whether they are Falling Behind, or Falling Far Behind the standard in five key domains of development.

### **ELOM 4&5 YEARS TARGETING TOOL**

A short, five-item version of the ELOM 4&5 assessment tool that helps to identify individual children aged 50 to 69 months who are Falling Far Behind the expected standard and need additional, targeted support to catch up.

### **ELOM-R ASSESSMENT TOOLS**

Two direct child assessments that measure children's performance in (1) early mathematics and (2) early language at the end of their Grade R year or the start of the Grade 1 year. The tools can be used independently or together to establish whether children have mastered the Grade R curriculum in these areas.

### **SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL FUNCTIONING RATING SCALE (SEF)**

A short assessment of a child's social and emotional functioning that is administered with the child's teacher or caregiver. An adult who knows the child well is asked 13 questions to assess the child's social relations with peers and adults, emotional readiness for school and self-care. The social-emotional rating scale is used in conjunction with the ELOM 4&5 and ELOM-R tools.

### **LEARNING PROGRAMME QUALITY ASSESSMENT TOOL (LPQA)**

An observation tool for assessing the quality of group learning programmes that target children between three- and five-years old. The tool helps to identify areas of improvement in a number of domains, such as the learning environment, teaching strategies, and curriculum delivery.

### **HOME LEARNING ENVIRONMENT TOOL (HLE)**

A short questionnaire for primary caregivers that measures home aspects associated with early language, numeracy, and cognitive functioning in children between three- and seven-years old. The tool determines the early learning resources that children have access to, time afforded to children, and the early learning activities engaged in at home.

## HOW CAN THE **elom** TOOLS SUPPORT PROGRAMME IMPROVEMENT?



### **PROGRAMME DESIGN**

The ELOM 4&5, ELOM-R, LPQA, HLE and SEF tools can be used individually or together to measure baseline knowledge and competencies among your target community. Baseline findings can then be used to establish children's early learning needs in the community, and inform relevant and effective programme content and delivery plans.



### **PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION**

The LPQA tool can assist in the measurement of classroom quality and the extent to which ELP practitioners are delivering the learning programme as intended. Additionally, the ELOM 4&5 Targeting Tool can help identify children who are at high risk of Falling Far Behind and require targeted support during the course of the programme.



### **PROGRAMME OUTCOMES**

The ELOM 4&5, ELOM-R, and SEF tools can be used to establish children's developmental outcomes. Comparing outcomes at the end of the programme year or cycle to baseline performance can help to establish a programme's effectiveness at enhancing children's development.



## HOW CAN THE **elom** TOOLS BE COMBINED?

The ELOM tools can be used in combination to provide a comprehensive understanding of child development.



### **HOLISTIC CHILD ASSESSMENT**

By combining the ELOM 4&5 or ELOM-R tools with the SEF tool and the measurement of the child's height-for-age (HfA), you can gain a holistic view of children's development. Using multiple tools together allows you to track a wider range of developmental domains and understand the individual factors that may affect early learning outcomes (e.g., growth status or emotional readiness for school). For example, an **evaluation of SmartStart** found that children performed better on the ELOM 4&5 when they had a healthy growth status and higher levels of social maturity and emotional functioning.



### **CONTEXTUAL STUDIES**

Incorporating the LPQA and HLE tools alongside ELOM child assessments helps to understand the broader learning environment, both at home and in the classroom. This layered approach can help you explore how environmental factors, such as teaching strategies in the early learning classroom or time spent with the child at home, may influence children's developmental outcomes. Together, these tools help to identify potential gaps or strengths that may not be apparent from child assessments alone. For example, the **ELPO study** found that children with more books and toys at home performed better on some ELOM 4&5 domains.

