

## Interrater Reliability Certification

Interrater reliability is an online certification process that gives your teachers the opportunity to evaluate sample child portfolios and compare their ratings with those of Teaching Strategies' master raters.

It is important for teachers to use *GOLD*® reliably, both to scaffold children's learning and because you likely use their data in some way for reporting purposes. When teachers use assessment results to inform instructional decisions, accurate ratings enable them to choose effective teaching strategies. When they know they are using an assessment tool reliably, teachers can be confident about their classroom decisions. They know that they are interpreting evidence of children's development and learning in ways that enable them to plan for and respond appropriately to all of the children in their classroom. Interrater Reliability Certification is neither designed nor intended to evaluate your teachers' skills as educators. Its purpose is to support your teachers' ability to make accurate assessment decisions.

### The Interrater Reliability Certification Process

Teachers begin the Interrater Reliability Certification process by evaluating sample portfolios. The portfolios include enough evidence to rate each child's knowledge, skills, and behaviors in six areas of development and learning: Social—Emotional, Physical, Cognitive, Language, Literacy, and Mathematics. At least 80 percent of teachers' Round 1 ratings must agree with the master ratings in each area of development and learning to earn certification. If not, teachers are able to continue with additional rounds until they have reached agreement of at least 80 percent in each area. The number of rounds they may undertake is unlimited.

To begin the Interrater Reliability Certification process, teachers can select **INTERRATER RELIABILITY** from the Develop area sub-navigation. Please reference the *MyTeachingStrategies*™ How-To Guide for Teachers for further instructions.

### Certification Testing Agreement

The Interrater Reliability Certification test is to be taken only by the individual named in the Teaching Strategies account. Teachers should neither solicit nor accept any assistance during the testing process. In order to take the test, teachers will be required to certify that 1) they are the individual who is registered to take the test and 2) they are completing the test without assistance from any source.

*GOLD*® is an authentic, ongoing, observation-based assessment system that relies heavily on your judgement as a teacher. The information teachers collect every day by observing children in the context of meaningful experiences makes this instrument robust and effective. After analyzing the evidence teachers have gathered to document each child's knowledge, skills, and behaviors, teachers evaluate each child's progress. They identify each child's levels of development and learning at given points in time; track progress over time; and compare the child's knowledge, skills, and behaviors with widely held expectations for children of the same age or class/grade. Their evaluations inform the decisions teachers make when planning learning experiences for individual children and for classroom communities as a whole.