Determining an Overall Level for a Learning Progression

For the Fall 2014 administration of the Early Learning Assessment in Ohio, an overall level on a Learning Progression is determined by finding the highest level that a child has attained across all tasks in the Learning Progression.

There are two important considerations to address when determining an overall Learning Progression level:

1) Learning Progressions where there are descriptors for each developmental level (levels 1-5) for all tasks, and
2) Learning Progressions where there are not descriptors for each developmental level for all tasks.

1) Determining an overall level where there are descriptors for each developmental level for all tasks.

As portrayed in the example below, a child is determined to be Level 5 on one task in the Learning Progression and Level 3 on the second task in the Learning Progression. The resulting overall level for this child would be Level 3 since that would be the highest level that the child has attained across all tasks. The child would not be considered Level 4 or 5 in this example because the child was not determined to be at Level 4 (or 5) across all the tasks.

2) Determining an overall level where there are not descriptors for each developmental level for all tasks.

Some Learning Progressions do not have descriptors for all five developmental levels because there may not be a developmental milestone at a specific level. The example shown below portrays this scenario. In the first task, there are descriptors only at Levels 1, 3, and 5, and Levels 2 and 4 are blank. In the second task, there are descriptors for all levels.

If a child were determined to be Level 3 on the first task and Level 5 on the second task, then the overall level for this Learning Progression would be Level 4. Why? In this case, by attaining Level 3 in the first task, the child also attained Level 4 because there is no descriptor for Level 4 that distinguishes a later developmental milestone. Therefore, since the child attained Level 4 on the first task and Level 5 on the second task, the highest level that the child attained across all tasks is Level 4.