The Work Sampling System®, 5th Edition is a comprehensive, observation-based authentic performance assessment. It assesses children in seven developmental domains of: Personal and Social Development, Language and Literacy, Mathematical Thinking, Scientific Thinking, Social Studies, The Arts, and Physical Development, Health, and Safety. WSS has been used successfully in thousands of classrooms over three decades, and its validity and reliability is supported by an extensive body of research. Teachers collect observations and examples of student work, while children are going about their daily classroom activities. Evidence of learning is assessed within the context of research and standards-based age and grade-level developmental guidelines. Work Sampling Online is a user-friendly data collection and management system that simplifies the process and enables teachers to keep observations, evidence of learning, completed checklists all in one location. It provides robust reporting capabilities for both teachers and administrators and a tool for families to contribute evidence of learning from home.

Pennsylvania Specifics:
Since 2008, Pearson Clinical Assessment has partnered with the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) to implement the Work Sampling System. In 2011, Pearson worked with OCDEL to facilitate a requested change in the reporting system, enabling Work Sampling Online results to reflect child progress within the context of the Commonwealth’s Early Learning Standards. Pearson will continue its collaboration with OCDEL as the recent changes to state Early Learning Standards are implemented.

How does the tool meet the needs of young children with developmental disabilities or delays?
Because WSS assesses both performance and progress and because it emphasizes assessing children within the context of daily classroom activities, focusing on many different ways for children to show what they know and can do, it is appropriate for children with developmental delays. WSS’s individualized profile of development is particularly informative for IEPs. In cases of severe developmental delays, additional assessment administered by a psychologist or special services professional may be recommended.

Does the tool convert the rating of items to the PA early intervention Child Outcome Summary Form (COSF 1–7 scales)?
Teachers have access to a COSF form in the Work Sampling Online system, but they will need to select appropriate ratings.

What ages does the tool assess?
Work Sampling assesses PreK3 through Grade 3.

How often are children assessed?
Children are assessed up to three times per year.

What on-line tools are available?
Work Sampling® Online provides tools to manage observations, upload media files, input checklist ratings, and complete family-friendly summary reports. The Family Corner facilitates family participation. The system offers a wide range of reporting features for teachers and administrators. Work Sampling Online reports help teachers make sound instructional decisions and show child progress and help administrators evaluate program effectiveness.

What training options are available?
Fee-based customer training is available on-site or via webinar upon request. Additionally, Pearson offers numerous web-based professional development opportunities in the form of live webinars and on-demand recorded webinars at no cost.