



The following introduction and endorsement to the Amazing Athletes Motor-Development section has been written by Bonnie Bruce, Owner and Executive Director of Chancy and Bruce Educational Resources, Inc.

Chancy and Bruce Educational Resources, Inc. was founded in the early 1980s as a unique service to children, parents, teachers and schools in assessing children using a developmental profile. This profile looks at children between the ages of 2 1/2 to 18 years. It assesses children in the processing skill areas that are needed for formal learning. Children in grades one through twelve are also given assessments in reading, comprehension, spelling, writing, and mathematics. Social-Emotional maturity and attention-span maturity are also profiled. Recommendations are made in regards to school readiness, grade level placement, and if further diagnostic assessment is necessary. Referrals are made when requested. Other services include parent education, staff development, and recommendations for prescriptive intervention.

Bonnie Bruce, holds a B.S. in Human Development and Family Studies from West Virginia Wesleyan College. She holds a MEd. in Special Education from Middle Tennessee State University, and has done post-graduate studies in testing and assessment. Barbara Chancy who was instrumental in developing and field-testing this assessment tool passed away in November 2003. Prior to 1982, both Ms. Bruce, and Ms. Chancy taught at all grade levels and served as Resource Specialists in the Public School System in California. Ms. Bruce also directed an Institute for Child Development and has worked with school districts in developing early childhood intervention programs.

Chancy and Bruce Educational Resources Inc. has assessed over 135,000 children since 1984 and has completed two longitudinal studies. These studies have followed children from 4 1/2 years through completion of high school and the second study went four years beyond high school. Research continues in the area of school readiness and the correlation between processing skill development and grade placement. Chancy and Bruce Educational Resources, Inc. serves over 250 early childhood centers and schools in the Southern California area. All screening personnel have degrees in education and are trained in the assessment of children.



# Chancy and Bruce Educational Resources Inc.

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It has been said that, we first learn to move and then we move to learn. Movement increases the capacity and number of blood vessels to deliver oxygen, water, and glucose (brain food), which in turn optimizes the brain's performance.

Research also indicates concerns about the lack of physical activity in young children today and there has been concern that the lack of body movement is jeopardizing young children's potential learning abilities.

By allowing children to use their bodies they build the motor-control centers of their brains. Physical learning happens before abstract learning can take place.

Every motor milestone broadens a child's experience and changes their perspective on the world and creates an ever-changing environment that is essential for emotional and cognitive growth. As the child develops his/her muscles the neural circuits become more highly coordinated.

Children who participate in motor activities every day concentrate better, are more organized, resist impulses, and use strategies to achieve goals.

It is important to recognize that children grow and develop at their own inner timetable. As educators and those who work with young children, we must recognize and honor the unique development for each child. Our goal should be to allow all children to reach their optimum potential. When participating in physical activities children should experience an 80% success rate. Children at this age are very "egocentric" and doing activities that require cooperation can prove to be frustrating – pass the ball, throw the ball, or hand off the ball.

The opportunities provided through the Amazing Athletes program provides developmental appropriate lessons to help a child develop his or her full potential in motor skills that are critical in building the foundation for formal learning.

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