

# MSI Assessment Selection Guide

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**March 2026**

**Date:** March 2026

**Version:** v4

**Status:** For publication

## **1 Introduction**

Feedback from colleagues in the MSI Network during 2025 has highlighted a need for information relating to the different areas of assessment when working with children and young people with Deafblindness or multi-sensory impairment (MSI).

A small working group of colleagues from the network has put together this list of useful assessments, their purpose and links to their sources. Where source documents are not readily available, we have made them available via the NatSIP website

## **2. Contributors**

We would like to thank all the members of the MSI Network who contributed to this document.

Editors:

- Caireen Sutherland, (Seashell Trust/NatSIP)
- Hannah Downs (Kent)

## **3. Feedback on this document**

This is a working document for the sector, not a complete list.

The working group who compiled the document would value your continued contributions, including your thoughts on assessments already included or new assessments to add to future editions of the Guide.

To make a contribution or give feedback, please use the online form at <https://surveys.natsip.org.uk/index.php/115719>

## Assessment Selection Guide

Name	Primary area of assessment	Link	Use this if...	Choose a different assessment if
Affective Communications Assessment	Communication	<a href="http://complexneeds.org.uk/modules/Module-2.4-Assessment-monitoring-and-evaluation/All/m08p020b.html">http://complexneeds.org.uk/modules/Module-2.4-Assessment-monitoring-and-evaluation/All/m08p020b.html</a>	You need something adaptable which can be done in one visit. Your learner is at home or in a special school. You think that Intensive Interaction is a priority for your learner.	Your learner is mainstream.
Assessing Communication Together (ACT)	Communication	<a href="https://www.natsip.org.uk/doc-library-login/msi-assessment-selection-guide/1755-assessing-communication-together-act">https://www.natsip.org.uk/doc-library-login/msi-assessment-selection-guide/1755-assessing-communication-together-act</a>	Your learner attends multiple settings (e.g., school, home, residential, community spaces, etc) where different forms of communication are causing confusion for them. You are hoping to achieve consistency in their methods of communication, designing a programme for communication in consultation with all involved professionals.	You are unable to gather all professionals together at one time
Callier Asuzo G	Holistic	<a href="https://calliercenter.utdallas.edu/evaluation-treatment/callier-azusa-scale/">https://calliercenter.utdallas.edu/evaluation-treatment/callier-azusa-scale/</a>	You have lots of time to observe the learner The learner is under 5/at early stage of development You are able to gain the views of various adults working with the learner	"You are under time constraints Your learner is at a later stage of development"
Classroom environmental audit	Mobility	See the NatSIP Website: <a href="https://www.natsip.org.uk/doc-library-login/msi-assessment-selection-guide/1763-classroom-environmental-audit">https://www.natsip.org.uk/doc-library-login/msi-assessment-selection-guide/1763-classroom-environmental-audit</a>	You want a quick tick box on accessibility (or not) of classroom, environments etc. Helpful for making sure you haven't missed anything and highlighting quickly any concerns. Could also be left with school staff to complete	You need detailed information on implications for environment for hearing loss (consider using in conjunction with <i>A Quick Classroom Acoustic Audit</i> )
Communication Matrix	Communication	<a href="https://www.communicationmatrix.org/">https://www.communicationmatrix.org/</a>	You want to assess communication using the framework for the seven different levels of communication i.e. communication using a variety of different means. Ideal if you want to involve TA's and parents as you can interview both. The electronic version will produce the data in a graph format and so easier to see where the gaps are.	You want a development stage/age equivalent. You want to establish a level other professionals will understand.
Early Support Journal - Developmental Needs	Mobility	See the NatSIP Website: <a href="https://www.natsip.org.uk/doc-library-login/msi-assessment-selection-guide/1764-early-support-journal-developmental-need">https://www.natsip.org.uk/doc-library-login/msi-assessment-selection-guide/1764-early-support-journal-developmental-need</a>		
Functional Hearing and Vision Assessment AJ		See the NatSIP Website: <a href="https://www.natsip.org.uk/doc-library-login/msi-assessment-selection-guide/1765-functional-vision-and-hearing-assessment-aj">https://www.natsip.org.uk/doc-library-login/msi-assessment-selection-guide/1765-functional-vision-and-hearing-assessment-aj</a>		

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Learning Media Assessment		<a href="https://www.pathstoliteracy.org/learning-center/learning-media-assessment/">https://www.pathstoliteracy.org/learning-center/learning-media-assessment/</a>	You have a learner who is using or looks like they may need or use a multi media approach to learning and accessing the world around them. This originally USA document has been made relevant to UK settings and if you're a member of VIEW you can access it on their website. This is an extremely useful document but also very in depth. Main uses are when / how to use large print and or tactile methods of access.	You are short on time.
McLinden and McCall Touch Assessment (2002)		See the NatSIP Website: <a href="https://www.natsip.org.uk/doc-library-login/msi-assessment-selection-guide/1757-mclinden-and-mccall-touch-assessment">https://www.natsip.org.uk/doc-library-login/msi-assessment-selection-guide/1757-mclinden-and-mccall-touch-assessment</a>		
MISE		<a href="https://habilitationviuk.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/mobility-independ-assess-evaluation.pdf">https://habilitationviuk.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/mobility-independ-assess-evaluation.pdf</a>	You want to get a broad overview of all the areas of Habilitation and you have a lot of time as this is thorough. Not complex to complete. Has been most useful in looking at areas of Habilitation and considering these in a new/ holistic assessment.	
MSI Early Years Tracker Summary		See the NatSIP Website: <a href="https://www.natsip.org.uk/doc-library-login/msi-assessment-selection-guide/1768-msi-early-years-tracker-report-summary">https://www.natsip.org.uk/doc-library-login/msi-assessment-selection-guide/1768-msi-early-years-tracker-report-summary</a>	You want to review information prior to visit or report writing. You want to evidence progress. You want a one stop summary of needs.	
Positive Environment Checklist	Mobility	See the NatSIP Website: <a href="https://www.natsip.org.uk/doc-library-login/msi-assessment-selection-guide/1766-positive-environment-checklist">https://www.natsip.org.uk/doc-library-login/msi-assessment-selection-guide/1766-positive-environment-checklist</a>		
Pragmatics Profile	Communication	<a href="http://complexneeds.org.uk/modules/Module-2.4-Assessment-monitoring-and-evaluation/All/downloads/m08p080c/the_pragmatics_profile.pdf">http://complexneeds.org.uk/modules/Module-2.4-Assessment-monitoring-and-evaluation/All/downloads/m08p080c/the_pragmatics_profile.pdf</a>	You want to explore communication in a range of contexts. Covers a wide range of abilities.	
Quest (CCEA)	Communication	<a href="https://ccea.org.uk/learning-resources/quest-learning">https://ccea.org.uk/learning-resources/quest-learning</a>	Your learner is PMLD You want a clear framework for progression. You want ideas for assessment activities - suitable for sharing with other professionals.	
Routes for Learning		<a href="https://hwb.gov.wales/api/storage/ec52e14b-62d4-4bb0-9617-0a315662c671/curriculum-2022-routes-for-learning-assessment-booklet-final-web-ready-e-130720.pdf">https://hwb.gov.wales/api/storage/ec52e14b-62d4-4bb0-9617-0a315662c671/curriculum-2022-routes-for-learning-assessment-booklet-final-web-ready-e-130720.pdf</a>		
Sensory Functioning		See the NatSIP Website: <a href="https://www.natsip.org.uk/doc-library-login/msi-assessment-selection-guide/1767-sensory-functioning-assessment">https://www.natsip.org.uk/doc-library-login/msi-assessment-selection-guide/1767-sensory-functioning-assessment</a>		
Victoria School MSI Curriculum		<a href="https://www.natsip.org.uk/doc-library-login/curriculum/victoria-school-msi-curriculum/1371-victoria-school-msi-curriculum">https://www.natsip.org.uk/doc-library-login/curriculum/victoria-school-msi-curriculum/1371-victoria-school-msi-curriculum</a>	Suitable for wide range of ages/needs/skills easy to pinpoint next steps	

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