

Is it true we have to wait 2 years before we can assess our EAL learners for specific learning differences?

No. Unfortunately, some assessors are reluctant to work with learners who are new to English, or new to education, because the mainstream assessment tools are not appropriate for these learners. However, if we wait two years before assessing a learner we are concerned about, we are delaying putting in place the interventions that could make learning accessible for him or her. An informal evaluation enables teachers to discover what students can do well, and where their barriers are. The CAML materials help professionals to do this, independent of the student's first language or English language proficiency levels.