

Observing and Assessing the Whole Child

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Observation Tools

Running Records

Work Samples and Pictures

Anecdotal Notes

Checklists

Time/Event Samplings

Video

Objective observations:

simply state the events that are occurring in proper detail and description. There is no attempt to blame, diagnose, or make an emotional decision.

Quantitative observations:

focus on the number of occurrences of a certain event usually in order to measure something, if possible.

Subjective observations:

are quite the opposite and tend to be based either on an emotional or personal level.

Qualitative observations:

observe the details and descriptions of things and not the number of occurrences.

How does observation, documentation, and assessment work together?

First, you must understand typical growth and development.

You cannot support the children's development if you don't know what they should be learning next.

Next, you will need to carefully and thoughtfully observe the children in your care/classroom to see where they are on the developmental continuum.

This is when objective observations come in. You will need to establish objective observations and use those to decide on what goals you can set up for each child.

By being able to reflect on this information, you can plan developmentally appropriate curriculum.

Curriculum that is appropriate for the specific abilities, interests, and skills of each child. You'll want to use those goals from the previous one to set up the curriculum for each child.

Observation is not the end goal but the beginning of creating meaningful curriculum.

It is the basis for decision making about how to create curriculum or even alter the environment and insight into how to interact effectively with each child.

As you observe, keep in mind the goals you have established for the children in your care/classroom.

These goals are going to be the ones from the goals mentioned above.

Types of Assessments

Assessments

Portfolios

Observations

Standardized Tests

Parent Input

Self-Assessments