

COMPETENCY PROFILE



OBSERVATION, ASSESSMENT & RECORDKEEPING

WCC: ECE 141 (3 credits)

Knowledge & application of various techniques for observing & recording behavior of young children in early childhood settings.

OBSERVATION BASICS

- Describe the importance of observation for Educators/caregivers.
- Understand the value of observing children involved in spontaneous activity.
- State the forms used to record observed information.
- Practice using a variety of observational tools; narrative anecdotal, event/time sampling as well as checklists.
- Identify subjective statements, and know how to avoid judgments, assumptions and biases in observations.
- Understand the relationship between objectively recorded observations and valid interpretations.
- Use direct, objective and specific terminology to describe behaviors.
- Know terminology used in discussing observations.

NARRATIVES

- Explain the types of narrative observations.
- Know the advantages and disadvantages of each type of narrative observation.
- Prepare narrative records from observations of children.
- Evaluate your narrative recordings.
- Include/practice story telling as a way to record an observation.

SAMPLINGS

- Define and explain the features of time and event sampling.
- Explain the advantages and disadvantages of each sampling method.
- Write operational definitions.
- Conduct time and event samplings.
- Evaluate your time and event sampling observations.

CHECKLISTS

- Define and explain the features of a checklist.
- Explain the advantages and disadvantages of a checklist in observing children.
- Identify sources of information for checklist material.
- Conduct observations using checklists.
- Evaluate checklists.
- Write a learning prescription based on a checklist observation.

CHARTS, SCALES & PICTORIAL REPRESENTATIONS

- Identify the features of charts, scales and pictorial representations as observation tools.
- Explain the advantages and disadvantages of charts, scales and pictorial representations as observation tools.
- Conduct observations using charts and scales.
- Create graphs to depict observation data.
- Understand curriculum-planning implications as a result of observations.

MEDIA TECHNIQUES

- Define media techniques as related to observation of children.
- Understand the benefits of various media techniques in observations.
- Recognize confidentiality issues in the use of media techniques.

PORTFOLIOS & CHILD STUDIES, REPORTING TO PARENTS

- Define child studies and portfolios.
- Explain the features of child studies and portfolios.
- List contents of a portfolio and organizational techniques.
- List the advantages and disadvantages of portfolios.
- Understand the key elements in successful parent-teacher relationships.
- Describe the process of sharing observation data with parents regarding their child's development.
- Discuss the child's role in self-reporting, and/or collection of materials for portfolios.
- Create/discuss Documentation Displays for the classroom.

SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT

- Describe the features of screening and assessment instruments.
- Identify the differences between these two tools and/or when they would be utilized.
- Understand the differences between observations and tests.
- Identify various assessment instruments.
- Discuss appropriate use of the Early Screening Inventory.

College Textbooks:

- 📖 The Art of Awareness: How Observation Can Transform Your Teaching, Deb Curtis & Margie Carter;
Redleaf Press, 2000 ISBN# 978-1-884834-84-4 (new# 2007)