Assessment

Authentic assessments are carried out as children play, interact and engage in daily planned and free play activities. Teachers plan experiences and organize the environment based on what they learn from observing children and from other assessments. We take into account a child's strengths, interests, temperament and home culture. We look for opportunities to support skill development across domains.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TmgrGdXAJJM

Teacher Ideas

- When children enter the program, we propose broader goals (i.e. self-care) and collect data for more specific objectives.
- Include observation notes, checklists, family input, photos with notes and a collection of materials for portfolios.
- With family permission, take short videos of the children playing and use them as information for planning. Consider watching them with family members and compare impressions.
- Keep a notepad or sticky note and pen handy or use a phone notes app. Stay nearby but not so close as to distract from play.
- Record exactly what is seen without judgment and use a strengths-based approach building on what children are able to do.
- We listen and note what the children say as they try a new task or work out a problem. We help them share feelings about their accomplishments.
- Take turns doing observations if you have a teaching partner.
- Focus on a specific domain when observing.
- Take photos. After taking a photo, jot down short notes.
- Collect data, reflect as a team and adjust supports.
- Write down what children say at circle time with their initials.
- Divide portfolios by the MELDS domains in order to collect examples of children's activities across the curriculum. Let older children choose some items for their portfolios.
- Parents view their child's portfolio throughout the year. Use family interviews/surveys about the child's development.
- Data shows progress unique for each child. Compare observations of a child to past observations of the same child vs. comparing observations of that child to observations of others.