



Mini Lesson: Documenting Observations

Basket 2 Learning to See

Focus

Documenting Observations

Introduction

Documentation is evidence of children's progress and current abilities. Others will not know what educators notice unless they document it in some form. It can be said that *documentation makes learning visible*. It allows educators to summarize what they observe and use that information to improve teaching and communicate observations to others. The resources provided below provide information on this topic and offer interconnected information.

Instructional Videos

Based on what you know about yourself and your learning preferences, choose at least two of the videos below to learn about the topic. Notice that these resources build on one another around a common topic.

- [Gathering data](#)
- [Anecdotal records](#)
- [Work samples](#)
- [Taking photos](#)
- [Using checklists to collect data](#)

Supporting Materials

Review the articles below to become more familiar with ongoing assessment and assessment planning.

- Seitz, H. (2008). [The power of documentation in the early childhood classroom](#). *Young Children*, 63(2), 88–93.
- Bates, C.C., Schenck, M., Hoover, H.J. (2019). [Quick and easy notes: Practical strategies for busy teachers](#). *Teaching Young Children*, 13(1).



Linked Media

Title

Gathering data

Source Link

https://cdn2.webdamdb.com/v1_md_0GOAQWpmvXO4.mp4

Embeddable Media

```
<iframe width="1280" height="960" src="https://earlyedu.webdamdb.com/embedvid.php?embedAssetId=1HCgpXrEIBP4&apm=0"
frameborder="0" scrolling="no" webkitallowfullscreen mozallowfullscreen allowfullscreen></iframe>
```

Description

Interview with classroom clips. A director explains methods for educators to collect data during daily classroom interactions. An educator discusses collecting meaningful data to support intentional teaching.

Duration

1:22

Title

Anecdotal records

Source Link

https://cdn2.webdamdb.com/v2_md_0cPDgPz2wXX1.mp4

Embeddable Media

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frameborder="0" scrolling="no" webkitallowfullscreen mozallowfullscreen allowfullscreen></iframe>
```

Description

This video is a module about using anecdotal records for assessment. The video includes classroom clips, and educator interviews.

Duration

3:56

Title

Work samples

Source Link

https://cdn2.webdamdb.com/v1_md_oXJF99qtucyD.mp4

Embeddable Media

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frameborder="0" scrolling="no" webkitallowfullscreen mozallowfullscreen allowfullscreen></iframe>
```

Description

This video contains four teacher interviews about how they use work samples to monitor children's learning and development.

Duration

2:58



Linked Media, cont.

Title
Taking photos
Source Link
https://cdn2.webdamdb.com/v1_md_11pnwGVmYChN.mp4
Embeddable Media
<code><iframe width="1280" height="960" src="https://earlyedu.webdamdb.com/embedvid.php?embedAssetId=11pnwGVmYChN&apm=0" frameborder="0" scrolling="no" webkitallowfullscreen mozallowfullscreen allowfullscreen></iframe></code>
Description
In this video educators are interviewed on how they collect and use data from pictures, videos and work samples. Photos and clips of the educators and children in the classroom are shown throughout.
Duration
2:17

Title
Using checklists to collect data
Source Link
https://cdn2.webdamdb.com/v1_md_1wfqLT3LqcWS.mp4
Embeddable Media
<code><iframe width="1280" src="https://earlyedu.webdamdb.com/embedvid.php?embedAssetId=1wfqLT3LqcWS&apm=0" frameborder="0" scrolling="no" webkitallowfullscreen mozallowfullscreen allowfullscreen></iframe></code>
Description
During this video two teachers describe using a checklist to track student’s abilities and skill level and how they use the data to plan lessons.
Duration
1:06

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