

HIGH-QUALITY OBSERVATIONS

IN 4 EASY STEPS

This easy four-step formula can support practitioners to include the essential elements of a high-quality observation.



Build your observation by drawing upon the information and examples included within each section.



Early Years Training

STEP 1:

STEP 2:

STEP 3:

STEP 4:

CONTEXT

DEGREE OF ACHIEVEMENT

LANGUAGE OF LEARNING

CHILD'S VOICE

'Context' should provide an idea of where the learning took place and what the learning was about. Think about 'context' as 'setting the scene.'

The 'Degree of Achievement' describes the stage the child is at in their learning.

The 'Language of Learning' describes the learning that is being observed.

What the child is saying in relation to the learning being observed. Using open-ended questions will support gathering of children's thoughts and opinions.

Use of children's voice should be relevant, meaningful, supportive of the observation, and written in quotation marks.

- "Whilst engaged in a small group activity at the art table, Jenny..."
- "In the block area, Arlo was using the small blocks to..."
- "Brodie was sitting alone at the writing table..."
- "Lucy was chatting with friends at the snack table."

- "Is now attempting..."
- "Is beginning to..."
- "Tried to..."
- "Is able to..."
- "Can confidently..."
- "Independently..."
- "With a little support..."
- "For the first time..."
- "Competently..."
- "For a short time..."
- "For an extended time..."

- Explored
- Showed curiosity
- Is becoming aware
- Created
- Designed
- Persevered
- Experimented
- Learned by trial & error
- Was able to...
- Compared
- Investigated
- Explained

- "I've made it bigger."
- "I think this one feels lighter."
- "I'm going to share this with my friend."
- "They are the same. They're matching!"
- "When it gets dark, I go to bed."
- "The stars and moon come out at night."
- "Flowers in the garden need water to live."
- "The round block can roll down the ramp!"