



PODCAST INFORMATION SHEET

Look at Me! Using Focused Child Observation

This video podcast introduces viewers to using focused observation with infants and toddlers and gives them an opportunity to “try out” some of the techniques discussed.

Reflective Questions:

- How do I use observation in my practice? How might I use focused observation in new ways?
 - Are there ways I could use information (data) collected through observation to enhance my practice?
 - Who do I currently share focused child observation data with? Who else might benefit from the information I gather?
 - How can I use the information in this podcast to help me learn more about the children and families I work with?
 - Is there anyone else who would benefit from watching this podcast? How could I share it with them?
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Related Resources:

- Bryans, Amanda. *Building Strong Relationships with Positive Observations*. [Blog entry]. Washington, DC: Department of Health and Human Services/Administration for Children and Families/Office of Head Start, 2012.
<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/hs/director/blog/positive-observations.html>
- Early Head Start National Resource Center. *Exploring the Essentials of Infant and Toddler Ongoing Assessment* [Webcast]. Washington, DC: Department of Health and Human Services/Administration for Children and Families/Office of Head Start/Early Head Start National Resource Center, 2011.

- Early Head Start National Resource Center. *Look Again: Using Sensitive, Skilled Observation in Your Program* [Audioconference]. Washington, DC: Department of Health and Human Services/Administration for Children and Families/Office of Head Start/Early Head Start National Resource Center, 2011.
<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/ehsnrc/cde/saeo/LookAgainUsing.htm>
 - Zbar, Lisa and Claire Lerner. *Learning Through Observation* [DVD]. Washington, DC: ZERO TO THREE, 2003.
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Connections to School Readiness for Infants and Toddlers

- Focused child observation allows adults to see each infant and toddler as a unique individual and as a capable learner.
 - Observation informs individualization. It is the first step in providing the kind of individualized, responsive care for infants and toddlers that builds relationships, supports attachment, and promotes healthy brain development—all of which provide a foundation for school readiness.
 - Observation is an important part of **ongoing assessment**—a process of measuring and tracking children’s progress toward school readiness goals.
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Head Start Program Performance Standards Relevant to the Content in this Podcast:

1304.20(d) ...grantee and delegate agencies must implement ongoing procedures by which Early Head Start and Head Start staff can identify any new or recurring medical, dental, or developmental concerns so that they may quickly make appropriate referrals. These procedures may include: periodic observations and recordings, as appropriate, of individual children’s developmental progress, changes in physical appearance...and emotional and behavioral patterns.

1304.21(a)(2)(ii) Parents...must be provided opportunities to increase their child observation skills and to share assessments with staff that will help plan the learning experiences.

1304.21(c)(2) Staff must use a variety of strategies to promote and support children’s learning and developmental progress based on the observations and ongoing assessment of each child.

1307.3(2)(b)(ii) A Head Start or Early Head Start agency shall be required to...take steps to achieve the school readiness goals...by analyzing individual ongoing child level assessment data for all children birth to five participating in the program and using that data in combination with input from parents and families to determine each child's status and progress with regard to, at a minimum, language and literacy development, cognition and general knowledge, approaches toward learning, physical well-being and motor development, and social and emotional development, and to individualize the experiences, instructional strategies, and services to best support each child.

If you do not have a copy of the Head Start Program Performance Standards and would like to view them electronically, you can use the following link to the ECLKC:

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/standards/Head%20Start%20Requirements>