

Assessment for Decision Making: *Making Decisions*

Use these ideas and questions to build on what you've learned and extend your practice.

THINK ABOUT IT!

- **Self-Reflection**

Use these questions to think about your own practice.

- **Reflect with Others**

Supervisors, directors, coaches, and teachers/providers can be reflective partners.

- **The Power of Practice**

Invite a colleague to join you; observe or record each other and share ideas.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS

- How do I use evidence when making moment-to-moment decisions while interacting with children?
- In what ways do I use evidence from assessment to make long-term planning decisions?
- What important pieces of information about children should I collect that are not currently part of my assessment practice?
- How can I strengthen my ability to notice and interpret evidence about children's developmental progress?
- In what ways can I strengthen my capacity to create effective learning experiences based on everyday evidence from children?
- How might I collaborate with colleagues to plan learning experiences based on everyday evidence from our classrooms or child care settings?

TRY IT OUT!

Closely observe an individual child or small group of children in one of the following areas in your early learning setting: dramatic play, block play, water table, reading, small manipulative, art, or sensory.

- What do you notice about children's interests and needs?
- What do you learn about children's developmental progress in any particular developmental domain (literacy, math, social interactions)?

Based on your observations, make a decision about when and how to interact with the child/children you observe.

Record the evidence you observe and use it to make decisions when planning future learning experiences.

How Did It Go?

What did you notice in your observation? Did you discover something new or a different way of "seeing" the child or children? How did you use the evidence when making moment-to-moment decisions or when planning future learning experiences? What might you try next time?

What Next?

Continue to practice using everyday evidence to make decisions. Record your thoughts about the process in a professional journal, and take time to reflect on your practice. Use the next PD2GO pack, "Assessment Types," to learn about different types of assessments and how they provide critical information to guide our decisions in supporting individual children's learning and development.