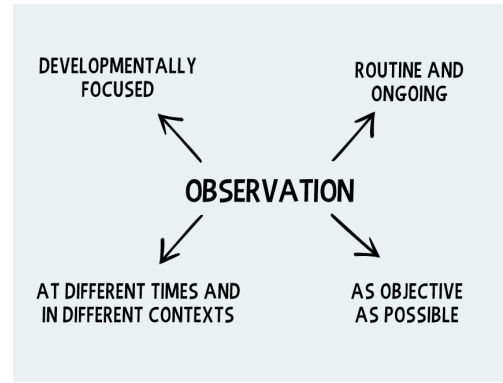
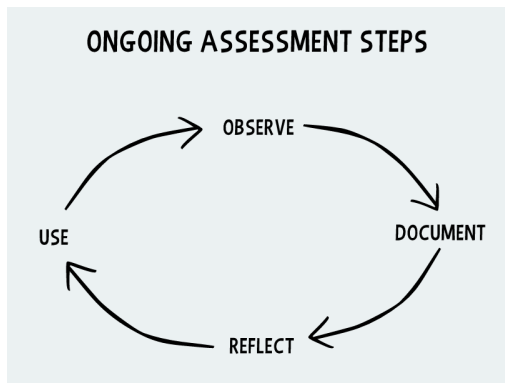


Using Observation and Documentation: *Observing with Purpose*

OBSERVING WITH PURPOSE



Purposeful observation allows you to:

- Learn about children’s motivations and interests;
- Document children’s learning and development; and
- Be intentional in planning learning experiences that build upon children’s interests and development.

How do I know what to observe?

- Observations should be **developmentally focused**.
- Knowledge of children’s development:
 - Helps you know what to look and listen for;
 - Helps you understand what you observe; and
 - Helps you support and guide children’s learning.

How do I fit observation into my day?

- Weave observations into daily activities to make observing children’s behavior **routine and ongoing**.
- Three types of windows of opportunity for observation:
 - Spontaneous observation
 - Targeted observation
 - Prompted observation

How do I gain a comprehensive understanding of each child’s developmental progress?

- Observations should be **at different times and in different contexts**.
- Multiple observations of a child at different times and in different contexts allow you to gain a more comprehensive understanding of their skills, development, and learning.

How do I keep my observations unbiased?

- Focus on what children say and do, in order to keep observations **as objective as possible**.
- Be aware of your attitudes, assumptions, and expectations about children’s behavior.
- Ask others, such as colleagues or family members, about their observations.