

CHLD 109: Observation and Assessment of Young Children

NAEYC Assessment Standards

Learning Outcomes	2. Describe, select and demonstrate use of purposeful, appropriate formal and informal observation tools, instruments, and strategies for use in program and child evaluation.
DEC Recommended Practices	A13 Professionals use multiple measures to assess child status, progress, and program impact and outcomes. PP8 The program is based on recommended practices of the field including standards from accrediting agencies and professional associations.
NAEYC Standards	3c: Knowing about and using observation, documentation, and other appropriate assessment tools and approaches.

Centers seeking NAEYC Accreditation must create portfolios to document 10 Standards. One of them is Standard 4: Assessment of Child Progress. It reads---

Program Standard: The program is informed by ongoing systematic, formal, and informal assessment approaches to provide information on children’s learning and development. These assessments occur within the context of reciprocal communications with families and with sensitivity to the cultural contexts in which children develop. Assessment results are used to benefit children by informing sound decisions about children, teaching, and program improvement.

Rationale: Teachers’ knowledge of each child helps them to plan appropriately challenging curricula and to tailor instruction that responds to each child’s strengths and needs. Further, systematic assessment is essential for identifying children who may benefit from more intensive instruction or intervention or who may need additional developmental evaluation. This information ensures that the program meets its goals for children’s learning and developmental progress and also informs program improvement efforts.

For this assignment you will be studying one of these classroom portfolios and determining what specific criteria they must meet and how they document that they meet this standard.

To prepare for this field assignment:

- Read Chapter 2: “Legal, Ethical and Professional Responsibilities in Assessment”
- Read the “NAEYC Position Statement: *Where we stand on assessing young English language learners*” available from:
<http://www.naeyc.org/files/naeyc/file/positions/WWSEnglishLanguageLearnersWeb.pdf>
- Arrange an observation in a NAEYC Accredited Center and request permission to study a NAEYC classroom portfolio from one of the classrooms.
- Print the “NAEYC Standard 4 Form” for use as you collect your data.
- Print the “Field Experience Verification Form” and fill out for the cooperating teacher to sign.

When you arrive at the center:

- Ask where they would like you to study the portfolio. Some may want you to stay within their room and others may arrange for you to take it to a conference room. Remember that they have invested numerous hours into compiling this portfolio and treat it carefully.
- Find Standard 4 on Assessment in the portfolio. Study that section.
- Using the “NAEYC Standard 4 Form,” list 10 of the specific criteria that were addressed in this section on the handout.
- Use the chart to describe how this particular class met each of the criteria. In the process of outlining how the criteria were met, ideally you will discover a variety of appropriate formal and informal observation tools, instruments, and strategies.
- Note any modifications outlined on the chart for young English language learners.

After you leave the center:

- Using the NAEYC Standard 4 Form, type your table with the 10 chosen criteria and the document descriptions.
- Write a Reflection outlining:
 - Insights you gained regarding appropriate formal and informal assessment tools, instruments, and practices for both children and programs.
 - How this particular classroom meets the needs of their young ELLs in regards to assessment.
 - If you found any discrepancies between classroom practices, the NAEYC Assessment Standard and criteria, or the NAEYC position statement on assessing young ELLs.
- Turn in to your instructor:
 - your “NAEYC Stand 4 Form” table outlining the 10 criteria
 - your Reflection paper
 - the signed “Field Experience Verification Form”