

Engagement Check II

We will be using the definitions for engagement and nonengagement as defined in R.A. McWilliam's and Amy M. Casey's book, Engagement of Every Child in the Preschool Classroom as well as the form from the back of the same book.

Definition of engagement: "Engagement is the amount of time children spend interacting with their environment (adults, peers, and materials) in a developmentally and contextually appropriate manner (McWilliam and Bailey, 1992). Increased engagement results in improved behavior, social interactions, and learning." (Page 3)

Definition of non-engagement: "Nonengagement refers to unoccupied behavior such as crying, wandering without purpose, staring blankly, and aggression. Nonengagement should be avoided." (Page 3) They go on to explain it more thoroughly, "nonengagement refers to unoccupied behavior such as 1) waiting needlessly (i.e. not in a turn-taking situation); 2) waiting even though the child knows what is coming next and is anticipating the activity (e.g. sitting at the table waiting for food); 3) staring blankly; 4) wandering without a purpose; 5) crying, whining, and so forth; 6) displaying aggressive or destructive acts; and 7) breaking sensible rules (e.g., throwing or kicking toys). In general, if the child is doing something the adult does not want him or her to be doing, the level of engagement is probably nonengagement." (Page 5)

Using the Engagement Check II

Their instructions for using the tool state, "The engagement Check II is simple to complete by conducting visual scans of the classroom. It can be completed by a classroom teacher or other observer. During each interval, (suggests 15-second intervals be used for a maximum of 15 minutes or the end of the routine) the observer scans the classroom once to count how many children are present. The observer then scans the classroom a second time to count how many children are nonengaged (the number of nonengaged children is counted and recorded because it is usually a smaller number than the amount of engaged children..." (Page 102)

Scoring the Engagement Check II

After the observation, the authors suggest that, "... the observer calculates the number of children engaged during each interval by subtracting the number of nonengaged children from the total number of children present. The number of children engaged should be recorded on the data collection form. Next, the observer calculates the percentage of children engaged during each interval by dividing the number of children engaged by the total number of children present and multiplying by 100. Finally the average percentage of children engaged during the observation is calculated by adding the percentages of children engaged during each interval and dividing by the total number of intervals." (Page 103)