

Objective vs. Subjective Observations

Observation is a useful resource in early childhood education as observation:

- Provides teachers with information.
- Helps teachers evaluate their program.
- Provides a tool for evaluating children's progress over time.

Guidelines for accurate and objective recording of observations:

- Focus on the facts.
- Record each detail.
- Use action words when possible.
- Avoid opinions.
- Include only what you see and hear.
- Use description words but NOT subjective words (such as happy, smart, helpful, pretty, or secure).
- Be sure to provide an overview of what has happened in the order it occurred.

(modified from Brown and Wright, 2000, p. 32. AR Pre-K ELLA Training Manual).