

CHLD 105: Early Childhood Curriculum Development

Authentic Assessment

Learning Outcomes	9. Identify and implement observation and assessment that is inclusive of children who are culturally, linguistically, and ability diverse, and implementation strategies that reflect curriculum planning, principles, and concepts
DEC Recommended Practices	A15. Professionals rely on materials that capture the child's authentic behaviors in his routine circumstances.
NAEYC Standards	3c. Knowing about and using observation, documentation, and other appropriate assessment tools and approaches.

Within the field of early childhood education, the external context has demanded increased accountability. Within these demands for accountability, professionals must demonstrate children's progress in learning and development while staying true to the need to measure this progress in ways that are authentic.

Your Authentic Assessment assignment is divided into three parts.

Part One: Review of Authentic Assessment Strategies

Part One of this assignment requires that you provide an overview of authentic assessment strategies and their rationale. Based on Chapter 7: Authentic Assessment for Evaluating and Guiding Children's Progress, complete the following:

- Briefly describe (two to three paragraphs) the importance of using authentic assessment strategies.
- Develop a list of authentic assessment strategies, including:
 - Their usage.
 - An overview of how to effectively implement each of them.

Part Two: Professional Interview

For Part Two of your assignment you will be interviewing a current professional within the field. This might be a director, teacher or related service provider that works with young children such as a Speech Language Pathologist, Developmental Therapist, Physical or Occupational Therapist. Arrange a time that is convenient for both you and the professional. Plan about an hour for the interview. Record the professional's responses to the following:

- Their perspective on the importance of authentic assessment.
- How they use assessment within the early childhood environment.
- What they see as the strengths and weaknesses of the assessment practice they utilize.
- What they would either like to see change regarding assessment in their environment, and/or what they think is working well.

Part Three: Reflection

For Part Three of your assignment you will be reflecting on what you have learned about authentic assessment, as well as the results you obtained during your professional interview. In one to two pages, address the following:

- Your analysis of the assessment practices used by the interviewed early childhood professional, including:
 - Strengths
 - Weaknesses
- Recommendations you would make regarding their assessment plan, including your suggestions with a rationale for why you are making these suggestions.

For this assignment you will turn in to your course faculty:

- Your review of assessment strategies in Part One
- Your write up of the professional interview from Part Two
- Your reflections from Part Three