

CHLD 109: Observation and Assessment of Young Children

Interview

Learning Outcomes	5. Describe implications of cultural, linguistic, environmental, and family influences on observation, assessment, and goal-setting methods and approaches for every child 7. Become informed, inform others, and demonstrate recognition of the importance of legal and ethical responsibilities when gathering and sharing information about children.
DEC Recommended Practices	A15 Professionals rely on materials that capture the child's authentic behaviors in routine circumstances
NAEYC Standards	3.c: Knowing about and using observation, documentation, and other appropriate assessment tools and approaches 3.d: Reflecting on their own practice to promote positive outcomes for each child.

For this assignment you will be interviewing an early childhood professional. Your objective is to gather information about what legal, ethical and professional responsibilities guide their assessment practices. Indirectly, we will find out if they are intentionally accommodating for children from diverse populations.

To prepare for the interview:

- Read Chapter 2: Legal, Ethical, and Professional Responsibilities in Assessment
- Schedule an appointment with any early childhood professional that is willing to discuss assessment practices with you (director, teacher, Head Start coordinators, or related service provider). Plan on about an hour interview.
- Copy the questions (listed below) in preparation for the interview.
- Prepare a “**Field Experience Verification Form**” ahead of time, so the person you interview only has to sign and date it.

When you arrive for your interview:

- Explain the purpose of the interview, including that your class is examining:
 - Assessment practices in early childhood settings
 - Legal, ethical, and professional responsibilities that guide them
 - Role that assessment plays in improving quality in early childhood education
- Use these questions to guide the interview:
 - What assessment practices are used in your setting?
 - Do you have a formal assessment plan?
 - What is your role in the assessment process?
 - What laws, regulations, standards, or policies guide your assessment practices?
 - Do you have any limitations to sharing information about children and families?
 - How do you accommodate diverse populations of children and families? (don't define diversity so that you can assess how they interpret the term)

- How does assessment help improve the quality of your services?
- Is there any assessment topic that you feel is impacting early childhood?
- Allow your interviewee to expound on any particular issue that they feel is important and impacting the quality of early care and education.
- Take **objective** notes or write direct quotes of their answers
- Ask the person to sign and date a “**Field Experience Verification Form**”

After you complete your interview:

Write a **Reflective Paper** that includes the following:

- Basic Information on the person interviewed
- An **objective summary** of your interview
- Your **subjective conclusions**
 - The role assessment plays within their program
 - The comprehensiveness of assessment practices they have in place
 - How they accommodate diverse populations (broad definition of culture, language and/or ability)
- An overview of new insights you have gained regarding:
 - Your own role in assessment
 - The impact assessment may have on children and families
 - The role of assessment in your profession
 - How the interview process has shaped your knowledge of the field of early childhood education.

For this assignment submit a copy of your Reflective Paper and the “Field Experience Verification Form.”