

## CHLD 109: Observation and Assessment of Young Children

### PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

Learning Outcomes	<p>2. Describe, select, and demonstrate use of purposeful, appropriate formal and informal observation tools, instruments, and strategies for use in program and child evaluation.</p> <p>5. Describe implications of cultural, linguistic, environmental, and family influences on observation, assessment, and goal-setting methods and approaches for every child.</p> <p>9. Demonstrate an understanding of the appropriate analysis and interpretation of assessment data relative to varied purposes, including meeting Illinois Early Learning Standards and adaption or modification of instruction.</p>
DEC Recommended Practices	<p>A3 Families receive a written statement of program philosophy regarding family participation in assessment planning and activities.</p> <p>A8. Families participate actively in assessment procedures.</p>
NAEYC Standards	<p>3a. Understanding the goals, benefits, and uses of assessment.</p> <p>3d. Understanding and practicing responsible assessment to promote positive outcomes for each child.</p>

Six times over the course of the semester, you will be responsible for developing a philosophy statement based on a specific prompt. At the end of the semester, you will synthesize these into a final statement.

The grading criterion for these assignments includes:

- Each response should be a minimum of one to two paragraphs in length
- Responses should be based on an incorporation of course material

#### **Philosophy Statement Part One**

What do you see as the overall purposes of assessment? How can assessment help you in your role as a professional? What fears do you have about using assessment effectively? Are there any uses of assessment that you see as ineffective?

#### **Philosophy Statement Part Two**

Cultural sensitivity requires knowledge and openness about cultural practices that vary from your own, as well as the ability to explore and understand how culture might interfere with efforts to collaborate with families in planning and implementing assessment. Based on your reflection's focus on both culture and objectivity, what cultural factors do you feel are important to keep in mind when observing and assessing children's development and learning? How could not being aware of culture interfere with observation and assessment?

### **Philosophy Statement Part Three**

There are a wide variety of observation and assessment tools that can assist you in learning about children's development and learning. As a professional, how will you assure that you have knowledge of and use a variety of tools based on an individual child's needs?

### **Philosophy Statement Part Four**

Portfolio development for children consists of knowledge of observation and assessment strategies, content knowledge that children are expected to master, and data collection of how effectively children are meeting developmental goals. What strategies will you use to assure that each child's unique developmental patterns are captured within the portfolios you develop? What strategies will you use to assure that the portfolio is tailored to each child's developmental needs?

### **Philosophy Statement Part Five**

Planning for individual children is based on observation and assessment, child learning and developmental goals, and overall classroom goals. What does the term reflection, as an integral part of planning, mean to you? How will you use reflection as a tool to support planning within the early childhood classroom?

### **Philosophy Statement Part Six**

Based on your own experiences with standardized assessment, what concerns do you have about using standardized assessment within your classroom community? What situations do you feel that standardized assessment can be beneficial within? How will you ensure these assessments are used appropriately?

### **Final Philosophy Statement**

Over the course of the semester, you have been developing reflective statements based on course materials. At this point you will be synthesizing these statements into an overall statement of philosophy regarding observation and assessment.

Please respond to the following:

- What do you see as the overall purposes of observation and assessment?
- How will you ensure that the observation and assessment strategies you use are culturally sensitive, so that families participate actively in the assessment procedures?
- What tools will you utilize in daily practice to both observe and assess young children?
- How will you use portfolios within the early childhood environment?
- How will reflection guide your observational and assessment practice with young children?
- How will you ensure that standardized tests are used appropriately?
- Based on each of these prompts, prepare an overall statement of the benefits of using effective observation and assessment strategies.