## OBSERVATION



Montessori Children's Foundation Learning Series

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## OBSERVATION

- 1. Observation Games (face-to-face)
- 2. What is observation?
- 3. Why is observation Important?
- 4. Kinds of observations
- 5. What to Observe?
- 6. Qualities of a Good Observer
- 7. Questions and Answers
- 8. Observation Tasks



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## **OBSERVATION GAMES**

- Items on a Mat
- The Black Jacket
- Switching Places



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#### WHAT IS OBSERVATION?

"... we feel as if we were watching a mystery being unfolded

(Montessori, Absorbent Mind, p. 248).

A tool for understanding the **needs** of the child.

Not just 'seeing' but looking without judgement.



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# WHY IS OBSERVATION IMPORTANT?

We become aware of what stage each child is at and what is needed to aid further development

- Allows us to follow the child
- Helps us become aware of obstacles
- We gain an understanding human potential

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# KINDS OF OBSERVATIONS

- 1. Self Observation
- 2.Direct Observation
- 3.Indirect Observation

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## WHAT TO OBSERVE?

- Sensitive periods
- Movement
- Communication
- Concentration
- Signs of Independence
- Social development
- Emotional development
- Cognitive development



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## WHAT ARE THE QUALITIES OF A GOOD OBSERVER?

- Practice being present in the moment
- Alert and awake
  Remain objective (just writing what we actually see)
- Able to sit for a period of time (30 mins, building upto an hour)
- We have and develop humility no expectations
- Develop an eye for detail
- Knowledge and understanding of the natural path of development
- Have faith in the child that they will reveal themselves
- Be willing to practice regularly
- Share information respectfully

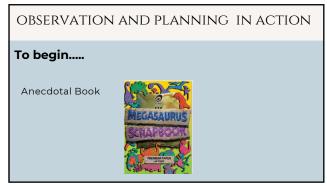
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## OBSERVATION AND PLANNING IN ACTION

- Whole class
- Individual Child
- Planning

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## **OBSERVATION TASKS** WRITE WHAT YOU SEE

Using 3 separate pieces of paper....write what you see!

- 1. 1 x Whole class
- 2. 1 x One child 3. 1 x Self Observation



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