


OBSERVATION

Montessori Children's Foundation
Learning Series



1

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



2

OBSERVATION GAMES

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



3

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.



4

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

5

KINDS OF OBSERVATIONS

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

6

WHAT TO OBSERVE?

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



7

WHAT ARE THE QUALITIES OF A GOOD OBSERVER?

- Silence the mind
- 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



8

OBSERVATION AND PLANNING IN ACTION

- Whole class
- Individual Child
- Planning

9

OBSERVATION AND PLANNING IN ACTION

To begin.....

Anecdotal Book



10

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



11