

Observation is the key method of assessment in kindergarten. Educators learn what the children know by watching them, listening to their conversations, and engaging them in conversations. In the above scenario, the educator was able to gather valuable assessment information. By adding materials gradually and focusing on specific areas to observe, the educator could assess children's approach to materials, their understanding of the properties of water, how they were applying skills of inquiry, their use of language, and their social skills. Furthermore, by observing their conversations, the educator could build on their interests and needs, and plan activities that would capture their imagination and extend their knowledge and skills.

Educators may find it helpful to visibly link the learning at each centre to expectations from the kindergarten program. To make the learning more visible to parents, volunteers, and other adults in the classroom, observable behaviours and skills can be posted at each centre. This will also serve as a reminder of the purpose and the potential for learning.

For tracking observations of children at learning centres, it may be helpful to set up a template grid with all the children's names. Following is an example for recording observations. This particular example uses an overall expectation.

