

A Family Guide to Teaching Strategies GOLD

Dear Families:

The most “authentic” way to discover what children know and can do is to observe them as they participate in daily activities in our program. We do this because the experiences we plan for children depend on what they already know and what they are ready to learn. We call this on-going assessment. Ongoing assessment plays an important role in our program.

Like you, we observe children all the time. The observations we do for assessment are intentional. Observations provide us with information on the specific aspects of each child’s development and learning.

At Leech Lake Early Childhood Development we have 38 objectives for development & learning that give us a focus for our observations. During every day experiences, we take note of what the children do and say. Here are a few examples of this kind of intentional observation:

- **Language:** When held, the infant coos, the adult coos back, infant then again coos, back-and-forth exchanges (engages in simple back and forth exchanges with adults). Or, during mealtimes with a group of 4-year-olds, we sit and talk with the children. We note when a child engages in conversations of at least three exchanges, three back and forth (for both age groups this covers Objective 10a, “Engages in conversations”)
- **Social/Emotional:** When the child regularly seeks to play with one or two other children (Objective 2d, “Makes friends”).
- **Literacy:** When we read books to the children, we observe to find out whether children are able to respond to questions about the story (Objective 18a, “Interacts during read-aloud and book conversations”)
- **Math:** In the Toys and Games area, we might observe a child stringing colored beads in a simple repeated pattern, such as red, blue, red, blue, red, blue (Objective 23, “Demonstrates knowledge of patterns”) and then accurately counting the beads and announcing, “I have 10 beads on my necklace” (Objective 20a, “Counts”). At home you might see your child arrange truck car, truck car, truck car, etc.

We observe children over time and at different periods of the day indoors and out to be sure we capture an accurate picture of what each child knows and can do.

Exchanging Information with Families

With access to **My Teaching Strategies Family Portal™**, you become enabled to view Documentations made on your child, Family Conference Forms, Report Cards, Weekly Plans, and Development & Learning Reports. You’re also allowed Access to the Resources Library (Learning Games Activities and Development & Learning Activities). In addition, you also have the ability to message your child’s teacher possibly for you to share your own observations on your child☺, all helping to create a more complete picture of your child’s development and learning.

Your child's TSG portfolio is a secure place; only you, your child's teacher, the program administrator, and anyone else whom the three of you authorize are able to access your child's portfolio items.

To get started you will need to provide your child's teacher with your email address. You will receive an invitation to join via email. Accept when Teaching Strategies sends you the link.

This is a condensed version of the *Family Guide*. If interested and you would like more information, ask your child's teacher for a copy or call anyone of the Education Program Managers @218-335-8345.

I am interested in using *My Teaching Strategies Family Portal*[™]

***PLEASE PRINT**

Your email:

Your child's name:

Your name:

Please submit this to your child's teacher during the first home visit or soon thereafter ~ Miigwech!

8/3/2017, Revised 8/6/2019 ks