

# WHY OBSERVATION is important

Observation is a necessary part of what teachers, home visitors, and child care providers do every day. But there's more to observation than just watching what children do, it also involves focus and purpose.



**Observation is a powerful tool!**  
**It is the entryway to seeing each**  
**child as a unique individual**  
**and as a capable learner.**

## Observation can be described as:

Paying close attention to a child's behaviors, interactions, activities, and interests

Noticing all aspects of the child's development

Watching and listening to learn about an individual child

## As care givers observe infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, they:

Individualize care and curriculums, including interactions, teaching practices, learning experiences, routines, and schedules

Measure and track progress in acquiring skills and concepts over time, as part of the ongoing assessment cycle

Better understand children's goals and intentions

Build relationships with children and their families