

Child Observations & Assessment Policy

In order to plan, prepare and organise for good quality care, adults need to observe children, review and evaluate the curriculum regularly maintain systematic records.

Tir na nOg Preschool recognised that observation is a useful tool and enables staff plan the curriculum to meet the individual needs of children.

“Assessment is the ongoing process of collecting, documenting, reflecting on, and using information to develop rich portraits of children as learners in order to support and enhance their future learning”. Aistear, The Early Childhood Curriculum Framework.

Policy & Procedure:

Tir na nOg Preschool observe and document children’s learning on a daily basis. By observing how children respond to activities, we are able to evaluate if the activities and resources we have provided meet the needs of all the children. It helps us to plan a broad, balanced and appropriate curriculum. Observations also enable staff to provide challenge and extend the programme so that each child is able to progress.

In Assessing, the observer looks for evidence of children’s progress across Aistear’s themes.

- **Dispositions:** for example curiosity, concentration, resilience and perseverance.
- **Skills:** fo example walking, cutting, writing, and problem solving.
- **Attitudes & Values:** for example respect for themselves and others, care for the environment, and positive attitudes to learning and to life
- **Knowledge & Understanding:** for example classifying using colour and size, learning ‘rules’ for interacting with others, finding out about people in their community, and understanding that words have meaning.

Observation involves watching and listening to children. We will use different types of observations including conversations, watching group play, watching individual play, questioning and using photographs. Observations can be planned or spontaneous. We will use different methods of recording the observations depending on which particular method suits best at any given time. All staff are familiar with Aistear and its recommended basis practices for effective observations and assessments.

Observations will be;

- Based on all aspects of development, and learning should be considered when assessing children.
- Assessment must be based on detailed observations of what children say and do
- Written records should contain only factual information, not opinion
- Carried out on a regular basis and shared with parents.
- Used to assist in planning and organising the curriculum to help meet the individual needs of children
- Staff should be aware of their own values and beliefs and ensure they are observing and assessing impartially

Reports may be written up to compile a full picture of numerous observations. If there are concerns with a child's development a meeting with the parents will be held to share the information. In order to write positive and honest reports, staff should use the following points:

- Use straightforward language
- Put opinions in their rightful place
- Support your opinions
- Focus on what you have observed
- Describe rather than blame

Reports should be;

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|------------------|------------------------|
| - Based on facts | - Confidential |
| - Reasonable | - Available on request |
| - Impartial | - dated and signed |
| - Legible | |
| - Accurate | |