Introducing the Cycle of Authentic Assessment: using what we see and record

Objectives

• Define the components of the authentic assessment cycle (observe, document, collect, evaluate, plan, teach).
• Discuss strategies and challenges in the assessment cycle.
• Practice components of the authentic assessment cycle.

Definition of Authentic Assessment (Bagnato & Yeh Ho, 2006, p. 16; Morrison, 2000)
The systematic recording of developmental observations over time (ongoing throughout the year)
• About the naturally occurring behaviors and functional competencies of young children in daily routines (actual work)
• By familiar and knowledgeable caregivers in the child’s life
• Is embedded within curriculum
• Is a cooperative and collaborative process
• Is intended to help professionals and parents learn more about children
• Assesses what individual children can do
• Makes assessment part of the learning process

Draw your own Authentic Assessment Cycle

Resources:

• Desired Results Access Project, Napa County Office of Education, Colorado; Larry Edelman, 2005; http://www.cde.state.co.us/resultsmatter/RMVideoSeries
• Basics of Assessment: A Primer for Early Childhood Educators. McAfee, Leong, Bodrova, 2004, NAEYC.
• http://www.earlychildhoodnews.com/earlychildhood/article_view.aspx?ArticleID=495
• Powerful Interactions: A Bridge Between Teaching and Assessment, Jablon, Stetson, Dombro, http://static.squarespace.com/static/5266e711e4b06dd5866d0bfe/t/53f36182e4b0514b8e62c0e1/1408459138973/A%20Bridge%20Between%20Teaching%20and%20Assess.pdf
• Six Simple Ways to Assess Young Children (2002). Sue Gober, Delmar.