

**EFPY 910: Methods of Assessment in Child Development**  
**Continuous Assessment: Observe and Evaluate Classroom Assessment**  
**50 points**

The purpose of this assignment is for you to observe and evaluate the assessment in an early childhood education classroom (Nursery or Primary 1).

**Step 1.** Identify an early childhood education classroom (Nursery or Primary 1). Obtain consent from the teacher to both interview him/her and to observe one lesson.

**Step 2.** Outside of the classroom, conduct a semi-structured open-ended interview with the teacher about his/her assessment strategies. Ask the following questions. Follow up the answers with good probing questions, and ask any additional questions that may be of interest to you.

Start by an introduction of yourself and the purpose of the interview (to understand methods of assessment in early childhood education for a class assignment. Define assessment as the process of collecting information about children's development, learning, behavior, and academic progress). Assure the teacher that their responses will be confidential, and that you will not use their name with their responses. Then solicit basic information from the teacher: grade level taught, years taught, educational qualifications, what type of training in assessment they have received (either in-service training or in their formal education), etc.

1. What is the purpose of assessment in your classroom?
2. What skills and/or knowledge do you assess? (Probes: Silence. Then ask: What other skills or knowledge do you assess? Continue the probe until the teacher has no further responses.)
3. What strategies do you use to assess the children in your class? (Probe: Do you use any tests/exams? What do the tests/exams look like? How do the children respond to the tests? Do you use any informal assessments?)
4. How do you use the results of the assessment of your children?
5. What are the advantages of assessment with children in your grade level?
6. What are the disadvantages of assessment with children in your grade level?

**Step 3.** Observe the teacher for one hour. In your observations, look for the following.

1. Identify the assessments the teacher used, both formal and informal, particularly those assessment strategies that the teacher might not realize are assessment strategies.
2. Identify the skills or knowledge that were assessed each time.
3. Identify times in the class where assessment was NOT used, but would have been useful. In your report, explain what type of assessment you would have used, and what skills/knowledge would have been useful.

**Step 4.** Write your report. Include the following.

*Part A. Preliminary Information.* Describe the relevant details of the teacher and classroom you observed (e.g., how many pupil in the classroom, any interesting information about the classroom.)

*Part B. Evaluation of Teacher's Knowledge of Assessment.* Evaluate the teacher's understanding of assessment based on his/her responses during the interview. What did he/she understand about the purpose of assessment, the tools of assessment, and the uses of assessment? What gaps does he/she have in knowledge of assessment? What

recommendations can you make for the teacher to improve his/her understanding of assessment?

*Part C. Evaluation of Use of Assessment in Class.* Evaluate the teacher's use of assessment. How was assessment used well? How was assessment used poorly? What other types of assessment could be incorporated in the classroom? What recommendations would you make for the teacher in using assessment effectively in the class?

*Part D. Conclusion.* Based on both the interview and observation, make an overall conclusion about the teacher's understanding and application of assessment. How well was the teacher's knowledge reflected in his/her application of assessment? How well do you think the findings from this classroom reflect most other ECE classrooms? What practical recommendations do you have for key stakeholders to improve assessment in ECE?

*Part E. Interview Transcript.* Write the questions and teacher's responses.

*Part F. Observation Field Notes.* Include your field notes from the observation.

### Rubric

Category	Description	Points Possible	Points Earned
Preliminary Information	Relevant characteristics of the teacher and classroom are clearly described	5	
Interview Transcript	Transcript is complete and questions/probing questions are effective	5	
Observation Field Notes	Field notes are thorough and relevant.	5	
Evaluation of Teacher's Knowledge	Both the teacher's strengths and weaknesses in knowledge were clearly explained. Effective recommendations were made.	12	
Evaluation of Application	Both the teacher's strengths and weaknesses in use of assessment were clearly described. Effective recommendations were made.	12	
Conclusion	Conclusion integrated both the teacher's knowledge and application of assessment, pointing out where the knowledge was reflected in the application, and where the knowledge contradicted application. Effective, relevant, and practical recommendations were made for key stakeholders.	11	
	<b>Total</b>	50	