

Keep It Real – Authentic Assessments

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What is Authentic Assessment?

- Provides information about what a child knows and can do
- Is continuous throughout the year
- Considers the whole child
- Occurs in a natural, non-threatening environment
- Includes multiple perspectives
- Supplies useful information impacting classroom practices

Key Practice #1: Make observations part of your daily routine

- Play and interactions
- Context of daily routines

Key Practice #2: Include families

- Child's first teacher is his family
- Comprehensive, accurate view of the child
- Appreciation of the family's role

Key Practice #3: Match strategies and purposes/goals

- Goal: plan learning activities
- Goal: document child's progress
- Goal: share information with families
- Goal: complete an assessment
- Goal: show children you value their work
- Goal: share your program's benefits with others

Key Practice #4: Remain objective in your observations

- Observations are objective, opinions are not
- Beware of personal perceptions and beliefs

Key Practice #5: Document observations (use a method that works for you)

- Use a variety of documentation methods (short notes, pictures, videos, portfolios, etc.)
- Keep documentation factual, brief, and relevant

Key Practice #6: Reflect and respond

- Observe
- Reflect
- Act

References

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