

COACHING CORNER

EFFECTIVE ASSESSMENT

Assessing Young Dual Language Learners:

Observation and Documentation of Young Dual Language Learners

Use these ideas and questions to build on what you've learned and extend your practice.

THINK ABOUT IT!

■ **Self-Reflection**

Use these questions to think about your own practice.

■ **Reflect with Others**

Supervisors, directors, coaches, and teachers/providers can be reflective partners.

■ **The Power of Practice**

Invite a colleague to join you; observe or record each other and share ideas.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS

- What strategies can I use to observe and document the learning and development of young dual language learners?
- How can I improve my process for observing and documenting nonverbal communication?
- What can I learn, through observation, about the children in my care whose home language(s) I do not speak?
- Why is it important to partner with others in assessing dual language learners whose home language(s) I do not speak?
- What is my process for partnering with others in assessment? How can I improve this process?

TRY IT OUT!

Plan an observation of a young dual language learner in your group. Choose a skill or behavior you would like to observe and a time of day when the child is likely to demonstrate the skill or behavior. During your observation, use the assessment strategies from this pack. Remember that the strategies are:

- **Observe actions:** What is the child doing? Is the child playing or speaking with others? Playing with objects?
- **Document nonverbal communication:** Is the child pointing or gesturing? What facial expressions is the child displaying?
- **Collect work samples:** Is the child creating anything that you can add to his or her portfolio? Can you take a photo or video of the child's project?
- **Record the language:** What language(s) does the child use? If the child is speaking a language you understand, record the words the child uses.
- **Partner with others:** Who can you partner with to learn more about this child?

How Did It Go?

Reflect on your observation experience. What was challenging about this observation? What went well? What did you learn about the child you observed? What else would you like to learn about this child? How will you gather this information? Who did you partner with to learn more about this child? What questions did you ask your assessment partner?

What Next?

Continue to practice your observations of young dual language learners. Check out *Digging Deeper* from the bundle materials for more opportunities to reflect on and practice your skills in assessing young dual language learners.