

### Partnering with Families in Assessment: *Observing Through a Cultural Lens*

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

- How does my own cultural background influence my expectations and observations of children in my care?
- How can I use the ladder of inference to cultivate awareness and sensitivity to cultural perspectives?
- How might the ladder of inference help me observe and interpret observations more accurately?
- How can I learn more about children's backgrounds, families, and traditions?
- In what ways do I strengthen my observation practice when I observe with cultural awareness?

#### TRY IT OUT!

Plan an observation of a child who you would like to view with greater cultural awareness/sensitivity. Choose one developmental domain to observe: physical, cognitive, social/emotional, language development, or approaches to learning. As you observe and record your observation, reference the four questions from the pack, *Observing Through a Cultural Lens*. Remember, the four key questions are:

1. What **assumptions** am I making about this child's behavior?
2. What **interpretations** am I making based on my own expectations?
3. In what ways is **my cultural background** influencing what I see?
4. How might this **child's family** help improve my understanding and make more culturally appropriate decisions about what I observe?

#### How Did It Go?

After recording your observation, reflect on the process. What came up for you based on the four key questions? How might this information help you in future observations?

#### What Next?

As you continue to observe children in your care, use the four key questions as a guide to explore your assumptions. Reflect and strengthen your own awareness as you record and interpret data. Explore the next pack in the bundle, *Including Families in Assessment*, to learn how to assess children more effectively by including families as partners in the process.