Connecting
Observation, Assessment and Planning

Take a Look

SIXTH EDITION Observation and Portfolio Assessment in Early Childhood SUE MARTIN

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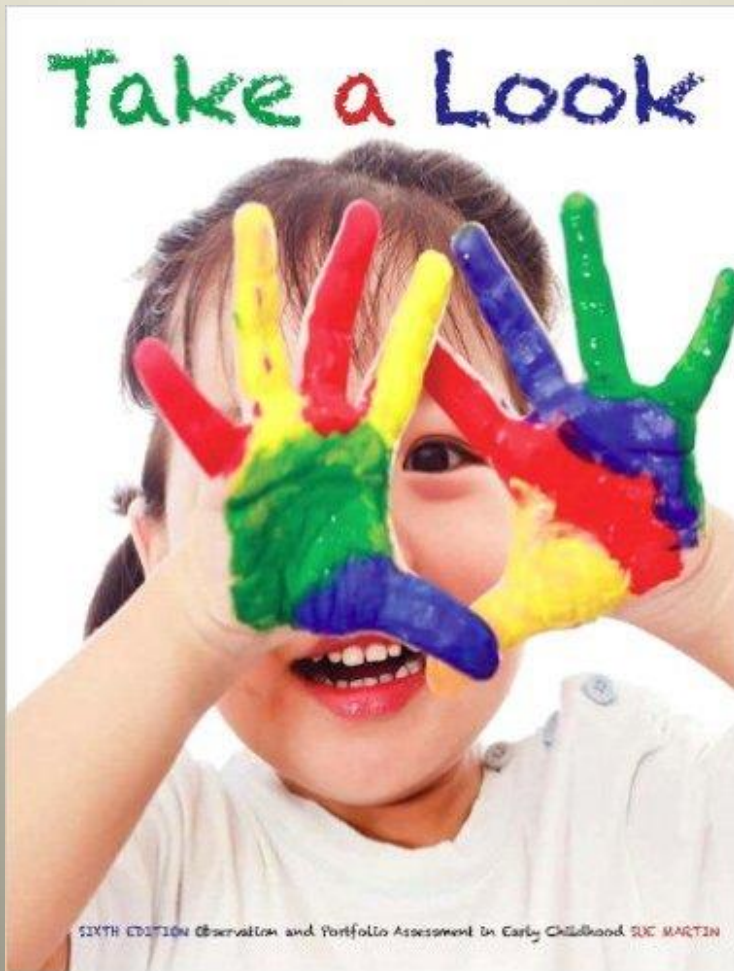
Observe ~ Document ~ Assess ~ Use

Observe

➤ To determine each child's interests, skills and needs

➤ To measure children's growth and development over time & share this information with parents

➤ To make changes to the curriculum & the environment

➤ To identify concerns

➤ To determine how best to handle problem situations

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Observation is ~

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BwzSn1VHvCQ

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Observe ~ Document ~ Assess ~ Use

Document

➢ Schedule observation times regularly into the program day and make it FUN!

➢ Establish a schedule to observe children in interest centers so that all interest areas are evaluated on a rotating basis.

➢ Assemble all observational materials and put them at convenient observation stations to encourage their use

➢ Wear clothing or aprons with pockets containing index cards, small notebooks or Post Its so you can quickly capture notes

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Document what
you see ~ get it down!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-WAy474XE6s

Document

Running records: A detailed narrative account of behavior recorded in a sequential manner as it happens;

Not limited to a particular incident like an anecdotal record;
The observer records everything seen ~ acts like a "video camera"

Advantages
1. Rich in detail;
2. Focuses on all behaviors, not just one particular behavior;
3. Does not require a great deal of training;
4. Understand not only what behaviors occurred but also the context in which the behavior occurred.

Disadvantages
1. Time consuming;
2. Works well for observing one individual, but is difficult to use when observing a group;
3. Observers keep themselves apart from the children which would be difficult for a teacher to do.

Document
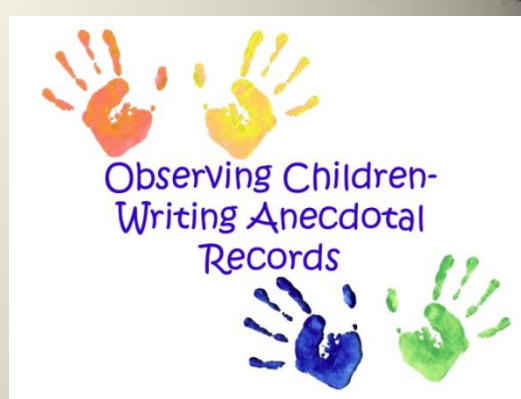
Anecdotal records: A brief narrative account describing an incident of a child's behavior that is of interest to the observer.
Anecdotes describe
•what happened
•how it happened
•when
•where
•what was said and done

These are brief
•describe one incident
•they are cumulative, collected over the school year
They are often written after the incident

<u>Advantages</u>
1. Focus on behavior of interest and ignore other behaviors;
2. Less time consuming than running record;
3. No special training needed for the observer;
4. Observer can catch an unexpected incident no matter when it occurs, for it is usually recorded afterwards.

<u>Disadvantages</u>
1. Does not focus on all behaviors; may overlook important behaviors;
2. Depends on the memory of the observer;
3. Difficult to use for research purposes.

Observation ~ Document ~ Assess ~ Use

Assess

➢ Change the way we think of "assessment" ~ talk about and advocate for developmentally appropriate assessment (not test taking, being pulled out of the classroom, pencil to paper)

➢ Authentic assessment should be "invisible" to the child

➢ It's about building teacher & child relationship

➢ Ongoing ~ Authentic ~ Formative ~ Individualized

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Use

➤ File the records you chose to use in a child's portfolio

➤ Use it to inform your curriculum/plans/goals

➤ Share the child's growth with parents

➤ Tailor activities to the needs of the child

➤ Allow children to progress at their own rate

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What do I do with it? ~ Authentic Assessment , Planning & Communication

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nD-pYhcXRVA&index=7&list=PLRt9IsvGYgeB_WLGgV-tuGXD4fbDsgdzl

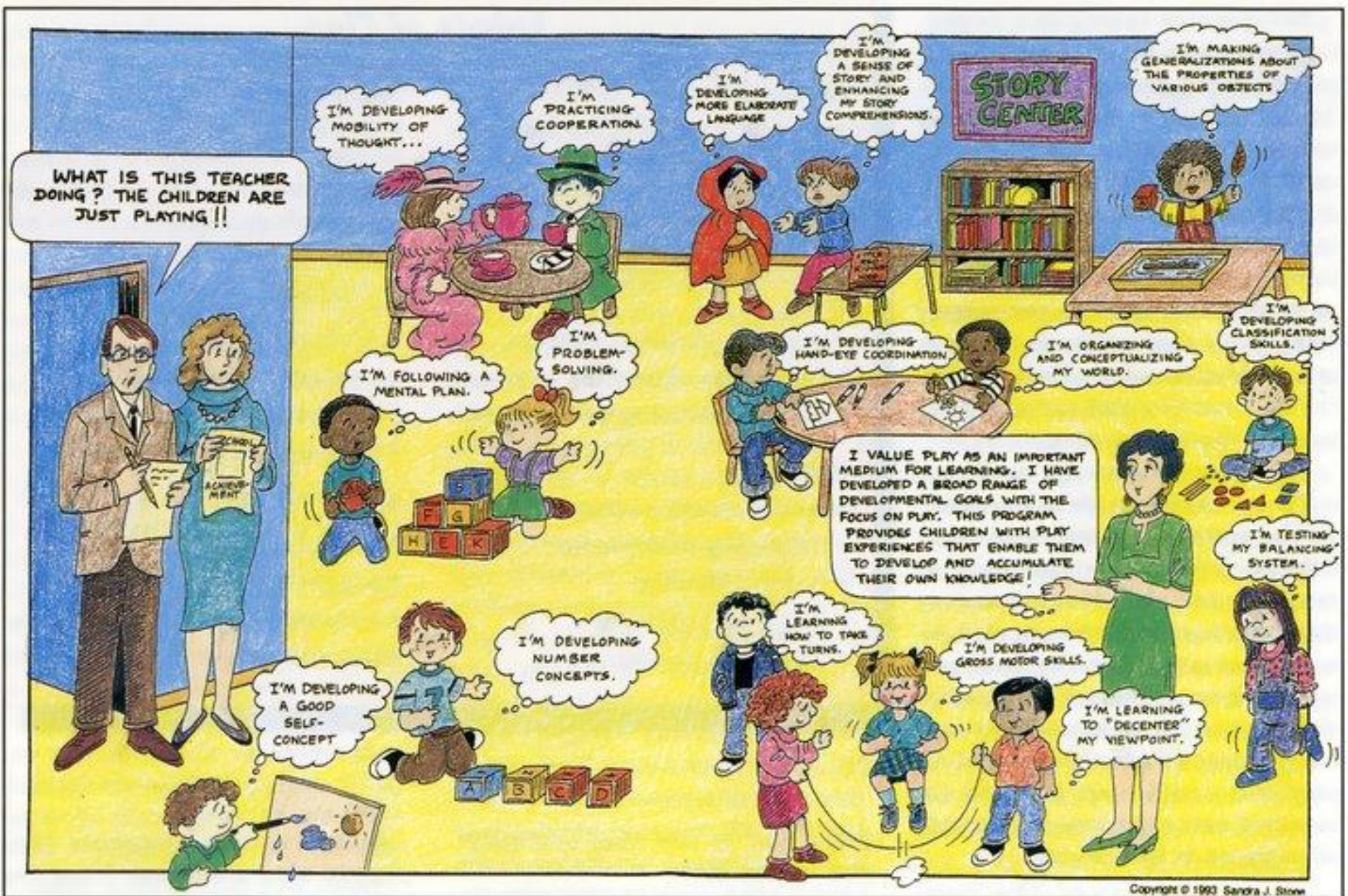# Practice Observing!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7nQxWCn_dBg

(use anecdotal notes)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fdZJiWnxhg0

(use running notes)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42AfHO9F9Eg

(use anecdotal notes)