

Seeing is Believing: Observation and Assessment

Reflective Practice Group Protocol

Preparing a child observation video:

- Look at your current GOLD data and see where you do not yet have any data for a particular child, for a particular GOLD objective(s).
- Before the next RPG, try to use video to gather data for that child for that particular GOLD objective.
- You may take lots of video, but you should select a short clip (about 5 minutes or less) to share with the group that best provides the data you were looking for.

Sharing:

- Before the group watches the video, the team will share:
 - Why they chose the child they did
 - What area of development or GOLD objective they wanted to learn more about
 - How did they go about gathering the data?
 - Why they chose to video when they did?
 - Did they plan the interaction to try to elicit the data they were looking for?
- The group will silently review the GOLD objective, its behavioral indicators and examples.
- The group will watch the video and may take notes about what they see and hear.

Analysis and Discussion:

- **What did you see and hear in relation to the GOLD objective?**
 - The participants will take turns sharing their observations (what they saw and heard) in relation to the stated GOLD objective. Each person will share something new that hasn't been shared before until there are no more observations about this objective to share. The presenters, who have seen the video before, should share last.
- **What preliminary marking would you give for this GOLD objective based on this video?**
 - Each participant will write their rating down silently.
 - The facilitator will poll the group- How many chose the rating of 1? How many chose 2? etc.
- **Why did you choose the preliminary marking that you did?**
 - Volunteers from each rating group will share why they chose the rating they did.
 - After each group shares, there may be open discussion regarding the ratings.
- **After hearing from the others, is your rating the same or would you like to change it? Why?**
 - Volunteers who changed their rating will share why.
- **How would you get more information to make a final rating for this GOLD objective?**
 - The participants will take a few moments to write their ideas.
 - The participants will take turns or volunteers will share their ideas.

- **What child strengths did you see in other areas of learning and development?**
 - The participants will take turns or volunteers may share their observations.
- **What does this video make you wonder about in regard to what might be below the surface?**
 - The participants will take turns or volunteers may share their wonderings and questions. *Presenters or others who have confidential information about the child should not share what they know is below the surface.* The goal here is to engage in inquiry and wondering together.
- **How else could you learn more about this child or this area of development?**
 - The participants will take turns or volunteers will share ideas they have in addition to the ones stated earlier.
- ❖ Repeat Sharing and Discussion and Analysis for any additional videos before Debriefing.

Debriefing (after all videos shared):

- **What did you learn sharing video observations and discussing them with your colleagues?**
 - Did you gain new insights? A different perspective?
- **What did you learn discussing your GOLD rating with your colleagues?**
 - Were your ideas challenged? Were you more confident in your rating after the discussion?
- **How could you apply this experience and/or this protocol in your ordinary work with your team or others in the center?**
- **Would sharing observations and discussing them with your colleagues make your work more meaningful? Rewarding? Effective? How so?**
 - The participants will reflect on the process of the group and explore ways to use this experience and/or protocol in other situations.