

# Tips, Tricks, and Tools for Lesson Planning

## Session 3

Brittney Andrade, MS Early Childhood Studies & Kimberlee Turner, MS Ed  
brittney@cdastars.com & kimberlee@cdastars.com  
Successful Solutions Training in Child Development  
www.cdastars.com



## Observation Tools

### Running Records

Writing everything as if you are holding a video camera and detailing every minute of what is going on in the video

### Anecdotal Notes

Anecdotal notes are used for the little bits of information that you gather throughout your day.

### Work Samples & Pictures

Work samples and pictures are clear examples of how children are developing.

### Videos

Using a video can be a simple way to observe different moments within a classroom. There are many benefits! You can rewind, pause, replay, fast forward, etc.

### Checklists

Make a list of the skills, observe them throughout a day or week, and check them off if/when the child has achieved them.

### Time/Event Samplings

A checklist of items/situations that you want to see how often they happen.

## Objective and Subjective

**Objective** = What you see and is measurable

**Subjective** = What you interpret and includes feelings

## Quantitative and Qualitative

**Quantitative** = quantity and includes amount

**Qualitative** = quality and descriptive

---

## Assessments

Different ways to assess children's abilities!

Observations

Portfolios

Standardized Tests

Self-Assessments

Parent Input

# Lesson Plan Example

## Catching Worms

Please provide appropriate supervision to the children in your care when completing all lessons. You will need to decide what types of lessons are safe for the children in your care. Appropriate and reasonable caution should be used when providing art and sensory experiences for children.

### Age Group:

Toddlers

### Objectives:

Children will develop fine motor skills.

Children will utilize hand-eye coordination.

Children will experiment with language and communication skills.

### CDA Competency Standard:

#### II.4.2a

**Activities and materials encourage children of varying abilities to develop their small muscles**

**a) Individual fine motor skills are encouraged through a variety of developmentally appropriate materials and activities**

### Materials:

- Pipe cleaners
- Clothes pins
- Bowl

### Procedure:

Prep for activity by cutting pipe cleaners into about 2 inch pieces and bend them to look like worms. Show the child how to use the clothes pin to pick up a pipe cleaner worm and transfer it to a bowl. Let the child give it a try. As they are working, talk with them about their technique.

Ask them questions such as:

- "How are you picking up the worm?"
- "What kind of animals pick up worms?"
- "How many worms did you get? Let's count together!"

### Adaptations:

For children who are having challenges holding or squeezing the clothes pin, use hand over hand method with support or provide child tweezers instead.

### Assessment:

Observe and record the children's fine motor skills. Were they able to pick up the worms with ease? How are their grasping skills developing? Place these notes along with pictures of the children participating in the lesson in the children's portfolio.

### Extension:

For children who need more of a challenge, you could have them also sort the worms by color or sizes.