



The National Center on
Quality Teaching and Learning

Learning Activities

Collecting and Using Anecdotal Records



Learning Activity 2—Collecting an Anecdotal Record

Activity Overview: In this practice activity, you will watch a video clip of two girls painting at an easel. You will observe the children's social relationships to see how they do at cooperating and using socially appropriate behavior. Then you will watch the short clip again and write about what you observed. When you have finished writing, double-check to be sure you have included all the parts of an anecdotal record.

Directions:

1. Watch the Gilroy video clip. You will want to focus on how the children participate cooperatively and constructively with one another. Listen to what they say to one another and watch what they do.
2. Watch the video clip again and write an anecdotal record.
 - What did you observe about the girls' social relationships? Think about how they did at cooperating. How did they do at using socially appropriate behavior such as sharing, helping and taking turns?
 - Be sure to write down facts rather than opinions or assumptions. Avoid making a judgment or guessing.
3. Check your practice anecdotal record.
 - Have you included the setting?
 - Have you written an objective description of what you saw & heard?
 - If you had made this observation in your own classroom, you would also have included the children's names and the date & time.

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