SUGGESTED EXERCISES

# Observation of outside playtime



**Video:** [A](http://cpe-pn.ccdmd.qc.ca/fiche/fete-dans-la-tente) tent party

## Objectives

* Analyzing the profession.
* Promoting a healthy lifestyle for children.
* Creating a safe environment in an early childhood education childcare service.
* Promoting children’s holistic development.
* Building a positive relationship with children.
* Planning democratic educational interventions.
* Organizing the educational environment.
* Facilitating active learning-based educational interventions.
* Integrating the language and culture of belonging into educational practices.
* Assessing educational quality.

## Activity details

Approximate duration: 4 hrs

STEP 1

1. Watch the video clip as a group or individually.

STEP 2

1. Individually, with pictures, paint or any other craft material, create a poster that includes the following elements:
* The most positively meaningful childhood memories that you experienced with friends;
* The most positively meaningful childhood memories that you experienced while playing outside;
* The significant adults in your childhood;
* The most positively meaningful places of your childhood.
1. Draft a presentation text for your poster.

STEP 3

1. Everyone shares their poster and reads their text for the group.

STEP 4

1. Watch the video clip for a second time as a group or individually.

STEP 5

1. In the table below, note any elements observed in the video clip that are either positively meaningful or not meaningful for children’s holistic development.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **MEANINGFUL FOR DEVELOPMENT** | **NOT MEANINGFUL FOR DEVELOPMENT** |
| **Interventions by an adult** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| **Available materials** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| **Space layout** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| **Space safety planning** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

STEP 6

1. Answer the following questions in writing based on your observations:
* If you were an educator in this educational childcare centre, how would you give children the opportunity to connect with nature in an even more meaningful way?
* Do you think playing in the tent is safe? Why?
* Would you change anything in this clip to make it safer? What? Why?
* How do you define risk-taking?
* How important is it in children’s overall development?
* If you were a child in this play environment and in the tent, would this playtime become a positively meaningful memory for you? Why?

STEP 7

1. Share and compare your answers with the group.

STEP 8

1. Watch the video clip for a third time as a group or individually.

STEP 9

1. Think about the symbol of the tent and imagine a group of children playing in a big tent or a teepee (wigwam) big enough for all of them. Then, imagine this tent in a pristine natural environment.
2. Answer the following questions to push your professional reflection further:
* Can playing in this type of tent be meaningful for children? Why?
* What are the benefits of allowing children to play in a natural environment?
* Should all children in an educational childcare centre have the opportunity to play in a natural environment? Why?
* As an educator, what is your role in implementing educational actions that are positive for children and their families with regard to various intensity levels of outdoor play, contact with nature and risk-taking?