

SUGGESTED EXERCISES

Observation of outside playtime



Video: A 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

1.1 Watch the video clip as a group or individually.

STEP 2

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.

2.2 Draft a presentation text for your poster.

STEP 3

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

STEP 4

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

STEP 5

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

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

7.1 Share and compare your answers with the group.



STEP 8

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

STEP 9

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.

9.2 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?

