



Module 3 Summary

Here is a summary of Key Points for **Module 3: Principles of Observation and Screening**.

Key Points



Child care professionals should focus on the individual traits of the child when conducting observation and screening to best reflect their needs and abilities.

Observation and screening should be comprehensive, considering multiple methods of collecting information and monitoring all areas of a child’s development.

Observation and screening should be ongoing to allow for earlier identification of needs or potential developmental delays or disabilities.

Observation and screening should be purposeful and focused to gather essential information for supporting a child’s development, sometimes requiring a targeted approach to monitor specific areas of growth.

Observation and screening methods must be reliable and valid to accurately monitor a child’s developmental levels.

Only information that is true and factual should be documented in an observation—never speculations or assumptions.

Responsive observation and screening adjust to a child’s needs and use findings to guide practices and planning.

Observing children allows child care professionals to reflect on and adjust their teaching practices and environment.

Child care professionals work with families and other professionals to best support children’s learning and development.

When conducting observation and screening, confidentiality must be maintained, and consent must be obtained from parents or guardians.

Child care programs select screening tools based on quality considerations, such as ease of use, accuracy, affordability, availability, sensitivity, suitability, and endorsements.

A user-friendly screening tool is easy to understand, use, and document for both staff and parents.

An accurate screening tool gives reliable results proven through expert testing for validity.

Programs should evaluate the cost of a screening tool before making a purchase.

A quality screening tool is easily available for purchase or distribution.

Screening instruments should be fair and unbiased.

A quality screening tool includes specific components for use.

Endorsements from reputable professionals and organizations show that a screening tool is trusted in early childhood education.

Programs should consider the specific needs of the populations they serve when selecting a tool.

Child care professionals must follow protocols, seek training, and ask for guidance if unsure about using screening instruments correctly.