

OBSERVATION AND ASSESSMENT MADE SIMPLE

A Practical Guide for Early Years and Primary Educators

Clare Devlin

This practical guide presents a clear step-by-step approach to observation, assessment and planning in early years and primary education with one powerful aim: to ensure that no child goes unseen. It transforms observation from a paperwork task into a meaningful way of understanding children's learning through a simple "What? So What? Now What?" framework.

Drawing on classroom experience and years of mentoring educators, the book combines clear explanations with real-life examples and reflective prompts. It guides readers through noticing and recording children's learning, making sense of observations, and planning responsive next steps.

Chapters cover:

- The "What, So What, Now What" observation process
- Observing learning outdoors
- Embedding observation in daily practice
- Linking involvement, wellbeing and learning
- Making assessment work in practice
- Planning and creating the conditions for responsive practice

Offering a fresh approach to observation that moves beyond tick-boxes and encourages authentic engagement with children's thinking and development, this is an essential resource for students on Early Childhood and Primary Education courses and practicing educators.

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A David Fulton Book

Clare Devlin has taken a potentially dry topic of assessment and observation and turned it into a conversational sharing of practical strategies. She weaves research and best practice in and out of examples and case studies and guides the reader away from overwhelm to calm application of easy-to-follow steps and informed teaching. - Dr. Kathryn Murray

Using her extensive practical knowledge, Clare gets to the heart of the process, making the transition from 'tick-box' observations to understanding and implementing developmentally appropriate strategies for analysis and assessment. This is a universal and invaluable guide for every Early Years professional. - Kathy Brodie