Observation is a powerful tool! It is the entryway to seeing each child as a unique individual and as a capable learner.

Observation can be described as:

- Paying close attention to a child’s behaviors, interactions, activities, and interests
- Noticing all aspects of the child’s development
- Watching and listening to learn about an individual child

As care givers observe infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, they:

- Individualize care and curriculums, including interactions, teaching practices, learning experiences, routines, and schedules
- Measure and track progress in acquiring skills and concepts over time, as part of the ongoing assessment cycle
- Better understand children’s goals and intentions
- Build relationships with children and their families

Adapted from Head Start | ECLKC