



Observing and Assessing Children's Experiences in the Arts

Teachers can ask open-ended questions to find out what children are doing and examine and interpret their responses and actions to better understand children.

Some questions that teachers should keep in mind when observing and assessing children's overall experiences in art and music and movement include:

- *To what extent did the children enjoy the art or music and movement experiences?*
- *What did they say and/or do in the process? How did they express their thoughts and feelings?*
- *How did they engage with and explore the materials/instruments given?*
- *How did they respond to the artwork/music/stimulus given?*

Some questions to keep in mind when observing and assessing children's expression in the arts include:

- *What did the children draw/paint/do/say/sing/play?*
- *What stimulated the children in their creations (e.g., from a classroom/home experience, a television programme character/plot, a story book, a recent/upcoming celebration)?*
- *What techniques/media did they use?*
- *What elements of art/music did they use?*
- *What are the elements of art/music that the children could identify?*
- *How did the child use the elements of art/music in his/her work (e.g., drawing, performing on musical instrument)?*
- *What are the children trying to communicate? What story are the children trying to tell?*
- *How does the expression relate to the children's prior experiences and knowledge?*
- *How did the children move in response to the different elements of music (e.g., dynamics, tempo, pitch, rhythm)?*
- *What elements of art did the children use in their artwork in response to the story/music/stimulus given?*



Teachers can also consider the following when observing and assessing children's appreciation of the arts:

- *Are the children aware of the aesthetics/sounds in the environment? What did they notice in their immediate environment?*
- *What observations did the children make of the piece of art/music? What might have led them to do so?*
- *What questions did the children ask when immersed in an aesthetically stimulating environment?*
- *What artforms or musical styles did the children respond most to? What might be some reasons for their response?*
- *What artforms/music are the children interested in? Why?*