Catch it live

A reflection prompt for noticing learning. Use it alongside your service's planning, supervision and documentation processes.

1. Notice what is happening

Start with an observation rather than an interpretation. For example: "The children placed three containers beside each other and repeatedly poured water between them." Record what you actually saw or heard.

2. Ask what it might mean

Consider possible interests, questions or learning. Ask the children about their ideas where appropriate, and discuss your interpretation with colleagues. One observation does not establish a diagnosis or a fixed explanation.

3. Offer a thoughtful next step

Choose an appropriate question, material, change of environment or opportunity to revisit an idea. Consider safety, access, supervision and each child's way of participating. Sometimes allowing more time is the useful response.

Illustrative examples

Building a ramp: "What do you think will happen if we change this end?" Observe how the children test their ideas.

Drawing a familiar place: Invite the child to explain what matters in the picture. Record their words accurately where useful.

Sorting objects: Ask whether there is another way to group them. Notice the explanation, not only the finished arrangement.

Reflect and document

What did I notice? What did I try? What did the children do next? What should I revisit or question? Connect with the relevant learning framework through the actual practice rather than attaching an outcome number automatically.

Explore the application toolkit | Free toolkit

Framework reference: ACECQA approved learning frameworks. Keep identifying child and family information out of job-application examples.

Optional support: Documents $25 | Targeted Strategy Call $50 | Documents plus Strategy $70 | Ultimate ECT Package $100. Check inclusions and enquire.