

Tips for success at Field Placement

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Observe and Understand the Environment

o **Initial Days:** Spend time observing the organization's operations, noting daily routines, children's behaviors, and staff interactions. Learn the names of the educators and children you are placed with.

o **Tip:** Ask questions if anything is unclear. Observe how your mentor and colleagues manage transitions and interact with children and parents.

Build Relationships with the Children

o **Engage Through Play:** Participate in children's activities and games. Play is a great way to build trust and rapport with children.

o **Tip:** Follow the children's lead in play. Let them guide the activity while you facilitate their learning. Ask them open-ended questions to extend their thinking.

o **Be Approachable:** Smile, maintain positive body language, and show genuine interest in each child.

Assist with Classroom Routines

- o **Be Hands-On:** Help with tasks such as setting up activities, cleaning, supervising transitions, and preparing snacks.
- o **Tip:** Always ask your mentor where you can assist. This shows initiative and helps you understand the day's flow.

Communicate with Mentors, Supervisors and Colleagues

- o **Ask for Guidance:** Inform your mentor if you're unsure about your role or expectations. Seek feedback on your performance and be open to these learning conversations. Discuss concerns with your Field Liaison.
- o **Tip:** Listen actively and apply any feedback to improve your performance.
- o **Stay Professional:** Maintain respectful and professional communication with staff and parents.

Follow the Daycare's Policies and Procedures

- o **Understand Policies:** Familiarize yourself with the centre's health, safety, and confidentiality policies.
- o **Tip:** If a child is injured or there's an incident, follow the protocol for reporting it to your mentor or supervisor immediately.
- o **Be a Role Model:** Demonstrate safe and appropriate behavior at all times, as children are always watching and learning from you.

Take Initiative but Stay Within Your Role

- o **Help Where Needed:** Offer assistance without waiting to be asked, but know the limits of your responsibilities as a student.
- o **Tip:** Be proactive in managing small tasks like setting up activities, cleaning up, or comforting a child, but always check with staff before taking on larger responsibilities.

Engage with Parents and Caregivers Professionally

- o **Be Friendly and Respectful:** Greet parents warmly during drop-off and pick-up, but leave formal communication or feedback to the lead teacher unless otherwise directed.
- o **Tip:** Observe how staff handle parent communication to understand how to maintain

professionalism and confidentiality.

Observe and Document Children's Behavior

- o **Take Notes:** During quiet times or after activities, take notes on children's behavior, development, and interactions.

- o **Tip:** Use these observations to ask for feedback from your mentor or to reflect on children's developmental stages.

Adapt to the Workplace Culture of the Centre

- o **Follow the Lead of the Centre Staff:** Learn the routines, language, and culture of the child care and/or early learning setting by observing how the staff work. Adjust your approach to fit the team's style.

- o **Tip:** Be open to adopting new methods and adapting to the specific needs of the center.

Reflect and Seek Feedback

- o **Daily Reflection:** Spend a few minutes each day reflecting on what went well and what you could improve.

- o **Tip:** Ask for feedback regularly from your mentor and adjust based on their advice. Continuous improvement will help you grow as a professional in the ECE field.

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