NURSERY MATTERS · FREE SAMPLE

From Professional Curiosity (Strong Foundations, Book One)

Something Seems Off?

A Quick Observation Checklist

Use this when something about a child doesn't feel quite right. Slow down, separate what you saw from what you think, and decide what happens next. Write briefly: a few words in each box is enough.

Child (initials): _____ Date: _____ Completed by: _____

1 NOTICE

What did I actually see and hear?

Facts only: what happened, when, and any exact words.

2 WONDER

What am I assuming?

My first explanation, and why I think it.

3 ASK AND LISTEN

What else might be happening?

Other possible reasons. What does the child, the family or a colleague say?

4 ACT

Who do I need to tell?

Tick everyone you have told, or need to tell.

☐ Key person ☐ Room leader ☐ Safeguarding lead (DSL) ☐ SENCO ☐ Family

5 REVIEW

What will we do next, and when will we look again?

One small action, who will do it, and a date to look again.

If you think a child may be at risk of harm, tell your designated safeguarding lead straight away.
Don't wait to fill in this sheet. Follow your setting's safeguarding procedure.

From Professional Curiosity: The Influence of Noticing in Early Years Practice (Strong Foundations, Book One) by Sylvia Greinig. The full Observation to Understanding Record is one of 13 practical tools in the book.

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