Preparing to Tell Your Story: Your Self-Study Journey

Every program's accreditation journey is unique. Your story should reflect and highlight your program's individuality. As you begin self-study, reflect on what makes your program special. What is important to the staff, families, and community? The points below will help you focus on your program's unique aspects as you document your journey.

Think about Your Program's Goals

Reflect: What are the goals for children? What are you trying to accomplish in your program? What do you view as the personal strengths your staff bring to their classes and/or the program?

Consider How Your Program Is Meeting Children's Developmental Needs

Reflect: Children need different kinds of attention, interactions, materials, and environments, depending on their ages and prior learning experiences. Think about the children in your program. How do you scaffold individual children's learning to meet their developmental needs academically, socially, and emotionally? Where could your program use improvement?

Consider Your Program's Sensitivity to Culture and Language

Reflect: Programs serve children and families from many cultural and linguistic backgrounds, so it is important for staff to understand and respond warmly and intentionally to cultural and linguistic diversity. Do the teachers in your program take steps to understand the cultures of the children they serve? How do you incorporate children's various cultures into your program?

Think about How Your Program Prepares for Children's Special Needs

Reflect: How do your program's practices vary when children have special needs that require additional supports and services? Do you have a plan in place to accommodate a child with a special need that is differentiated from plans for other children?

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