

Chapter 6

Objectives



- Define portfolio assessment, and discuss the rationale for its use
- Give examples of models and methods that fit into a portfolio assessment framework
- Identify considerations and guidelines for implementing portfolio assessment

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Portfolio Assessment: Contents of a Portfolio



1. Performance-based work

- Artwork
- Picture journals
- Dictations
- Audiotaping of conversations and songs
- Photos of block construction
- Playdough manipulations
- Science projects

2. Records of systematic observations

- Teacher graphs
- Teacher charts
- Teacher anecdotal observations and checklists
- Parent reports

3. Results from curriculum-based assessments and standardized assessments

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Characteristics of Portfolio Assessment



- A portfolio is a purposeful collection of a child's work across multiple environments.
- Portfolio assessment provides a complex, comprehensive, and meaningful portrait of the child.
- It provides coherent documentation of a child's progress over time.
- It documents a child's functioning in authentic, meaningful tasks that are part of daily routines.
- It recognizes the child's active participation in the construction of his or her own knowledge and the effects of the social context on learning.
- It provides documentation of a child's learning processes and ways of constructing knowledge.
- It is both child originated and adult guided.

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Criteria for Selection and Evaluation of Portfolio Content



Selection

The content and type of information collected should reflect and be guided by

1. The overall program curriculum
2. The child's individual goals and objectives

If the child has an individualized education program (IEP) in place, the selection of items should be based on the IEP.

Evaluation

Evaluation should be determined by the professionals, parents, and possibly the child.

It is important to use multiple and diverse methods with a variety of types of documentation of the child's work across different environments.

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Advantages and Limitations of Portfolio Assessment



Advantages

- Link to classroom curriculum
- Continuity across environments and over time
- Flexibility and individualization
- Child participation

Limitations

- Required planning time and coordination
- Reduced efficiency
- Storage issues
- Evaluation criteria
- Experienced and qualified team required