

CHILD PORTFOLIOS

A portfolio is a collection of the informal assessment evidence and unique work that reflect a child's developmental journey, skills mastered and experiences over time. They are an important tool to help educators make connections to the standards, reflecting on a child's unique abilities and developing individual goals. Portfolios are also a great way to visually show families their child's developmental progression.

How to Start a Portfolio

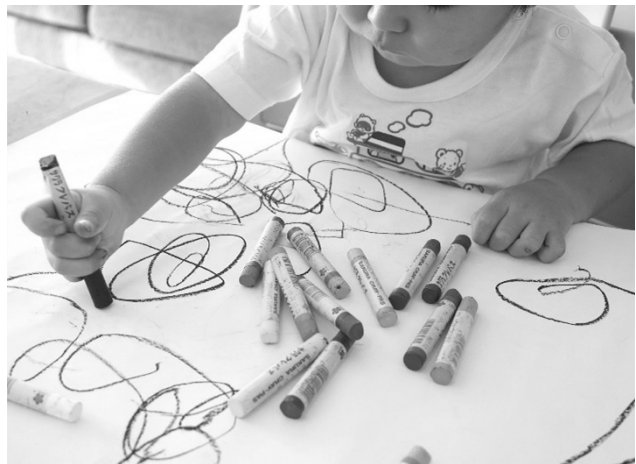
Consider the type of organization system you will use. Common systems include: binders, folders, file boxes, digital, etc.

Each child should have their own organized and labeled portfolio that may include:

- Anecdotal notes
- Writing samples, art samples, self-portraits, family portraits, etc.
- Pictures of activities that are three-dimensional or include motor activities
- Formal assessment results
- Developmental and educational goal sheets
- Child screening results
- Family-teacher conference forms
- Individualized transition plans
- Family information forms

Other additions:

- All About Me
- Pictures from field trips
- Family and community engagement activities



Best practice is to capture the child's progress towards their educational goals and overall development. For example, when a child is working to strengthen fine motor skills you may incorporate documentation of their journey from scribbling to letter-like forms to words. Dating the documentation is essential to show the child's progression in this skill.

Things to consider:

- Have a system in place to share this documentation with families
- Use the child's portfolio to guide your formal assessments
- Propel your planning and goal setting process with this collection of evidence
- Focus portfolios on the whole child
- Date all materials collected
- Make modifications and additions to portfolios as needed
- Give yourself enough time to complete the collection of evidence and portfolio work