



# Increase Observation Efficacy

- **Focus on the process rather than the result.**
- **Focus on the child rather than the test.**
- **Grade the experience to match the child's skill level and give the 'just right challenge'. Note how much help is needed and provided.**
- **Observe trial and error attempts and non-strategic attempts vs. correct initial attempts through problem-solving and correct assumptions about how objects relate to one another.**
- **Note which hand is being used as dominant throughout.**
- **Note attention and interest in the materials.**
- **Watch the child's eyes and facial expressions while they work.**
- **Use a highlighter to mark lines for tracing and cutting while the child watches.**
- **Observe how and where the child is sitting.**
- **Place the child in a chair with arms if he requires support or a sense of containment to do his best work. Consider sitting next to or behind the child if more support or guidance is needed.**
- **Reduce the amount of visual stimulation in the room by having the child face away from busy areas.**
- **Offer children time to explore materials as they move through each task.**
- **Describe what you see, in objective, non-judgmental terms.**
- **Take photos of the child's work and hands (only) to add to the evaluation or share with caregivers.**