

Director Observation Tool

One method to determine if messages and training conducted during pre-camp is improving the quality of the camp experience for campers is to regularly talk with and observe campers and staff.

<p>1. The camp's purpose, its "reason for being," is readily articulated by: <i>(Mark all that apply)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Campers B. Counselors C. Support staff 	<p>Possible questions to ask while walking around the camp:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell me about our camp — our purpose — our reason for being? • What should we tell parents is the main goal of our camp? • How would you describe the main goal or purpose of our camp? • What do you think is this camp's big purpose or goal for you? (campers) • Looks like you get to do lots of things here — what do you think is the main purpose of this camp? (campers) • Looks like you have a busy (important, vital, big...) job here — what do you see as the main goal or purpose of this camp?
<p>2. Staff are <i>engaged</i> with campers – talking with/listening to, sitting with, actively participating in (not just directing) activities, etc. <i>(Mark only one)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Seen most of the time B. Seen often C. Seen sometimes D. Seldom seen 	<p>Other indicators that staff are <i>engaged</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • staff are cheerful, smiling at kids (not bored, tired, distant, etc.) • staff show interest in what children say and do • staff spend little time on tasks that do not involve the campers
<p>3. Campers appear relaxed and involved with each other in a positive manner; teasing, belittling, excluding, and/or threats are uncommon. <i>(Mark only one)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Seen most of the time B. Seen often C. Seen sometimes D. Seldom seen 	<p>Other indicators of positive interactions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • group sounds are pleasant most of the time • campers show sympathy for each other and help each other • campers willingly share space and materials • campers seems to enjoy spending time together • campers do not pick on particular children
<p>4. Unsupervised children are observed: <i>(Mark only one)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Not at all B. Seldom C. Sometimes D. Often 	<p>Other indicators of effective supervision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • staff appear to know where campers are and what they are doing • activities that are potentially higher risk are done in smaller, manageable groups • age-appropriate supervision is observed, with older campers having more independence
<p>5. Campers and staff appear to take ownership of the camp environment and consciously and intentionally take measures to care for it. <i>(Mark only one)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Seen often B. Seen in some things/areas C. Seldom seen D. No opportunity to evaluate 	<p>Possible indicators of environmental consciousness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recycle bins clearly labeled and in use • signage on preserving main area, combating erosion, conserving water, etc. • campers and staff utilize established paths and campsites whenever possible • nature program and/or activities evident and utilized