



## So you're writing documentation but you don't know where to start?

Have you ever felt like you want to tell a beautiful story about children's learning but you are at a loss for words. We have created this TWO page guide with different words that can help illustrate the learning and experiences that happen in your amazing programs.

We invite you to think about your pedagogical documentation as a story you are telling. What stories do you wish to tell about children's experiences, encounters, and competence?

What we choose to document, and language we use sends messages about what we value and how learning happens. Below we will provide a list of words and phrases to consider integrating into your documentation that can highlight the brilliance of young minds.

- |               |                   |                 |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| • Determined  | • Leader          | • Compassionate |
| • Motivated   | • Self-reliant    | • Adventurous   |
| • Artistic    | • Detail oriented | • Magnetic      |
| • Brave       | • Tenacious       | • Nurturing     |
| • Creative    | • Communicative   | • Logical       |
| • Diligent    | • Talented        | • Understanding |
| • Imaginative | • Skilled         | • Reflective    |
| • Inventive   | • Willing to try  | • Inquisitive   |
| • Observant   | • Knowledgeable   | • Witty         |
| • Persistent  | • Confident       | • Independent   |
| • Unique      | • Ambitious       | • Philosophical |
| • Articulate  | • Authentic       | • Exuberant     |
| • Clever      | • Original        | • Expressive    |
| • Persistent  | • Focused         | • Eager         |



## Finding your why...words and phrases to support

Questions that you can ask yourself to act as a springboard for writing your documentation:

- What captures my attention as the children engage, explore and interact?
- What do I notice in the children's faces and actions?
- Where do I see examples of children's strengths and competencies?
- What strategies are children using?
- What do I think is valuable about this experience?
- What desired early learning outcomes do I see reflected here?
- Which learning goals could be focused on here?
- What other materials and activities could be offered to build on this experience?
- What values, philosophy and desired outcomes do I want to influence my response?
- Have you looked for what you don't see? How might you make the invisible, visible?

Phrases and statements to use for your sentence starters:

- Recently we have noticed...
- I was amazed to see...
- We discovered...
- We were confused by...
- I saw evidence of (values) when...
- I'm noticing...
- I'm curious about...
- Because of this, we are thinking to...
- This has shifted my thinking in this way...
- This reminds me of (research)