

Observing Work Engagement¹

Primary/3-6 Classroom

In high functioning Montessori environments, the vast majority of students will be engaged in concentrated, independent work with materials the guide (teacher) has prepared and with to which the student has been introduced through a lesson or presentation by the guide. This rubric was developed to assist with charter school audits. It is designed to direct the observer's attention to student engagement, with special focus on the characteristics of purposeful, effortful activity – what is known in Montessori as “work.” In addition to formal audits, this tool may be used for self-assessment, informal or formal supervision, and group reflection.

Classroom _____ Number of children _____ Date _____

1. Work Engagement of Students

- Observe for two minutes or until you count each student once
- Tally each category observed; one tally mark per student

At the beginning of visit time _____	Engaging in work	Using work as a prop	Choosing work	Receiving help	Wandering/interfering	Behaving disruptively
	engaging in age-appropriate and concentrated work independently or in presentation	not engaging with material in front of him/her	in process of selecting and/or setting up work	consulting with or receiving direction from a teacher in class	moving aimlessly or conversing without focus	yelling, defiant, leaving room, obvious misuse of materials
Tally marks						
Totals						

2. Work on Montessori Materials observed

Math	Language	Cultural, Practical Life, Sensorial

¹ Thanks to our friends at [New View Montessori Consultancy](#) for developing and sharing this document.

3. Work Engagement of Students (repeat observation)

At the end of visit	Engaging in work	Using work as a prop	Choosing work	Receiving help	Wandering/interfering	Behaving disruptively
time ____	engaging in age-appropriate and concentrated work independently or in presentation	not engaging with material in front of him/her	in process of selecting and/or setting up work	consulting with or receiving direction from a teacher in class	moving aimlessly or conversing without focus	yelling, defiant, leaving room, obvious misuse of materials
Tally marks						
Totals						

4. Comments – *Note patterns, surprises, and recommendations*