

Tips for Writing Narrative Comments

The goal of the narrative section of the Summary Report is to provide an individualized profile of a student's strengths and areas of difficulty across the domains of learning. These comments allow you to highlight the unique learning characteristics, interests, and accomplishments of each child. You should address the quality of a student's work, as well as performance. When writing the narrative remember to

- Address strengths and areas of concern
- Address performance and progress
- Be specific and descriptive
- Use language from the Developmental Guidelines
- Be positive and respectful

Here are examples of narrative comments for each of the domains of learning.

1. Personal and Social Development

Max shows some sense of self-direction in his choices and actions. He chooses an activity from among several choices and becomes involved in it. Max often shows eagerness and curiosity as a learner. He seeks help when he encounters a problem. We would like to see him begin to find his own solutions to simple problems.

2. Language and Literacy

Max uses language for a variety of purposes. We often hear him playing with rhyming sounds such as "funny, bunny, runny, sunny." He is eager to think up words for a song or finger play. Max has begun to recognize the association between the spoken and written word. He often wants to have words written down and inquires what signs or billboards say.

3. Mathematical Thinking

Max shows an interest in quantity and number. He is aware of numbers and counting as a means of determining quantity. Frequently he decides who is older and how to divide the last piece of pizza between two or three children. He often recognizes patterns around the room. Sometimes he duplicates these patterns or creates his own.

4. Scientific Thinking

Max can be very perceptive. He uses his senses to observe characteristics and behaviors of living and non-living things. After the classroom fish died, Max inspected it and commented on how its body had changed. Max will often seek out answers through active exploration. When the flashlight broke, Max took it apart to see what was inside.

5. Social Studies

Max is beginning to understand community and work roles. He seems to enjoy acting out different roles when the play area changes from a house to a pizza parlor to a bear cave. Max seemed to be especially capable at integrating the information about bear social structure into his play.

6. The Arts

When Max approaches the art table, he often seems burdened by the need to produce something. When the product does not match up to his expectations, he becomes frustrated and seeks the help of an adult. When we have creative movement, Max seems to be more relaxed and much more innovative when creating movements in response to music.

7. Physical Development, Health, and Safety

Max moves with enough balance and control to perform and accomplish complicated tasks. He has developed mastery over running skills, e.g., quick stops, full turns, small 180-degree turns, speeding up and slowing down. He also climbs with assurance. Max shows hand-eye coordination in the use of manipulatives. He will often spend long periods of time cutting paper very precisely.