# Getting to know a “Unique Me” Prompts for observations of babies’ and children’s well-being and involvement

The questions below provide suggestions to focus on during your observations of babies and young children. They will help you become more attuned to the subtle expression and personalities of babies and children in your key group.

The observations will enable you to reflect on what you notice and guide you in responding more sensitively to babies, toddlers and two year olds in your care.

It may be useful to choose one of the babies/children whom you would like to get to know better. Choose your focus for observation and take time to observe them on two or three separate 5 minute occasions.

## Questions help focus your observations

* How do you know the baby/child feels secure in the setting?
* How much is the baby/child able to explore and become absorbed in play?
* How do you know the baby/child is ready to play?
* What do you notice when the baby/child separates from her/his parent? What does she/he do when the parent arrives back?
* How and in what situations does the baby/child seek your comfort or help?
* What does the baby/child do when the room is quiet? What happens when the room is noisy? What calms the baby/child?
* How do you know when the baby/child is excited? When does she/he get excited?
* How does the baby/child communicate when they are tired, feel frustrated or anxious?
* How does the baby/child respond when you or others change the tone of voice?
* What resources or experiences capture the baby/child’s attention?
* How does the baby/child respond to new experiences you provide?
* What do you notice about the baby/child’s facial expressions as she/he plays?
* How does the baby/child express her/his preferences, likes or dislikes?
* How does the baby/child respond to a challenge?
* How often and in what situations does the baby/child initiate contact with others?
* What type of physical play does the baby/child enjoy/does not like?
* What else is unique about the baby/child?

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