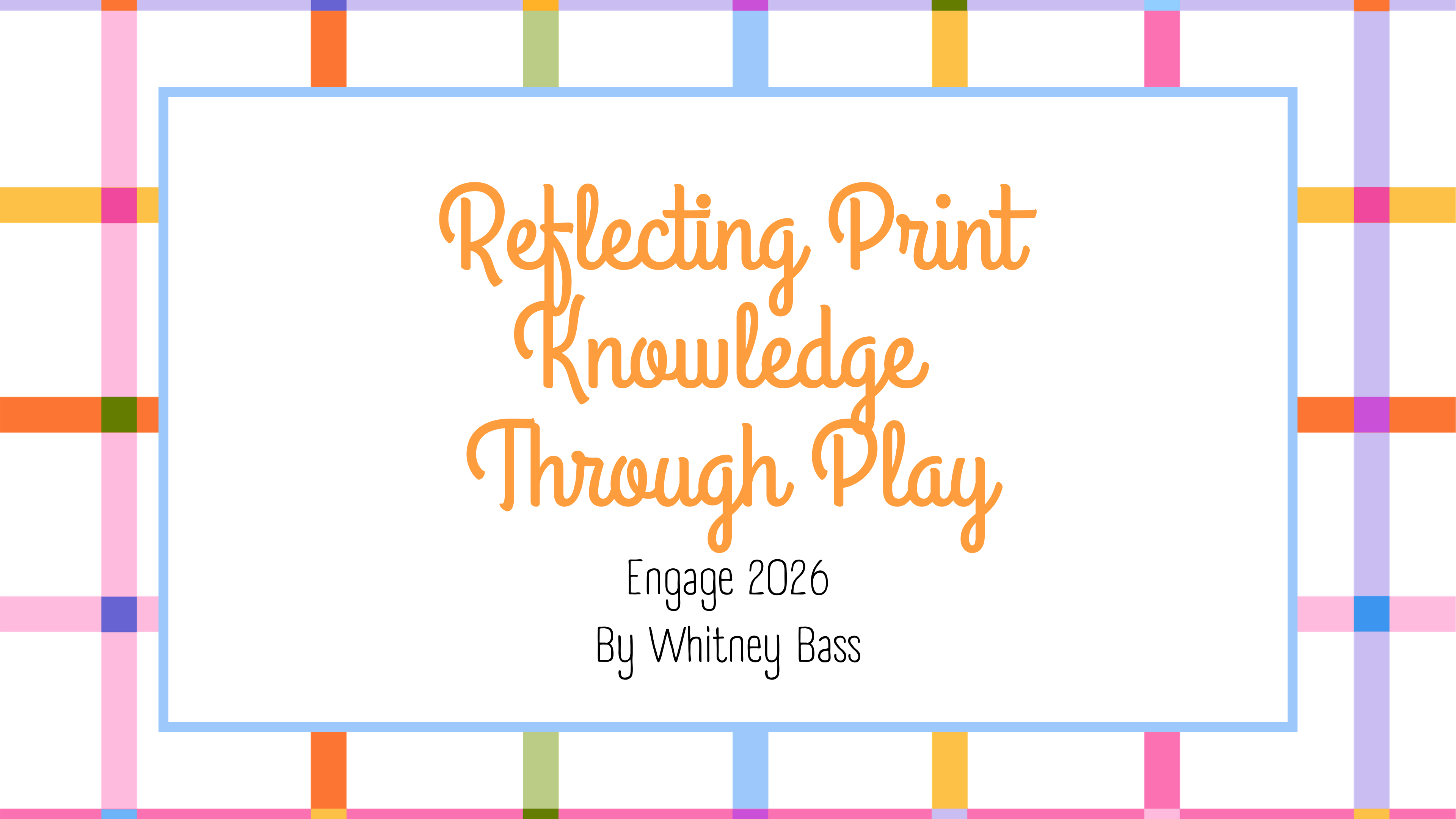




Reflecting Print Knowledge Through Play

Engage 2026
By Whitney Bass

**TO RECEIVE CREDIT FOR THIS SESSION,
MAKE SURE YOU COMPLETE THE
SURVEY AT THE END**





Today we will...

learn how children process and demonstrate print knowledge through play

So that we can..

intentionally plan authentic opportunities for them to write during centers

We will know we have it when...

you feel comfortable using an observation page to capture children's thinking and use it to plan next steps of support

Question To Ponder...

How do children use print to
convey meaning during
play?

“
Children's underlying interest orientations
guide their choices in both play and
writing

Nietzel, 2010, p.170

”

Writing Is...



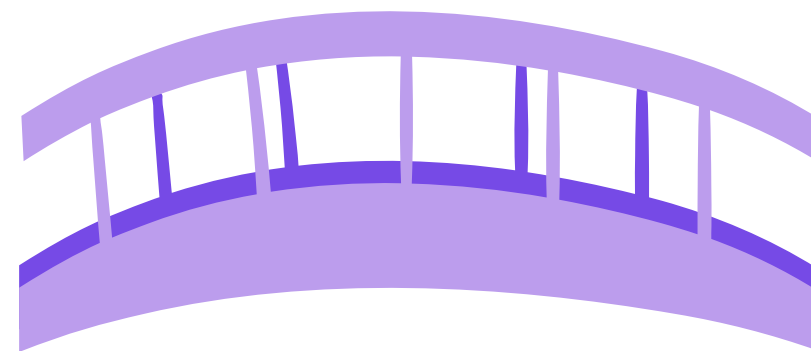
multimodal



developed far in advance
of written print



Constructed through social
interactions and collaboration
with peers and teacher



A bridge from oral language to different forms of print
(gestures, scribbles, marks, and pictures) to convey meaning.

(Clay, 1975, Rowe, 2018; Rowe
& Wilson, 2015; Dyson, 1990,
Hall et al., 2013)

Theoretical Framework



Vygotsky's Cultural Historical Theory (1978)

- Knowledge is constructed through meaningful interactions and experiences to form knowledge
- A person's cultural background is key to their understanding of language and print

Emergent Literacy Processing Theory (1975)

Researched, observed, and recorded how young children construct literacy understanding through reading and writing. children's early symbol making evolves over time as a child orchestrates more sources of information

Emergent Writing Behavior Checklist

*This list was developed using Marie Clay (1975) and Deborah Rowe (2018) work
On emergent writing and behaviors and actions children make and create when learning about print and how to
communicate with a symbol system.

Time Observed: _____

of students: _____

Center/Activity: _____

Foundational Understandings

- ☐ Child keeps marks inside page boundaries
- ☐ Child shows intentionality in their writing (writing means something)
- ☐ Child rereads or explains their mark(s)

Forms of Writing

- ☐ Gestures
- ☐ Oral Language
- ☐ Pictures
- ☐ Scribbles
- ☐ Letter Stringing
- ☐ Phoneme/Grapheme Matching (initial or other known sounds in word)
- ☐ Familiar Words
- ☐ Invented Spelling

Open Ended Composition

- ☐ Combines drawing & writing intentionally
- ☐ Adds details or revises marks

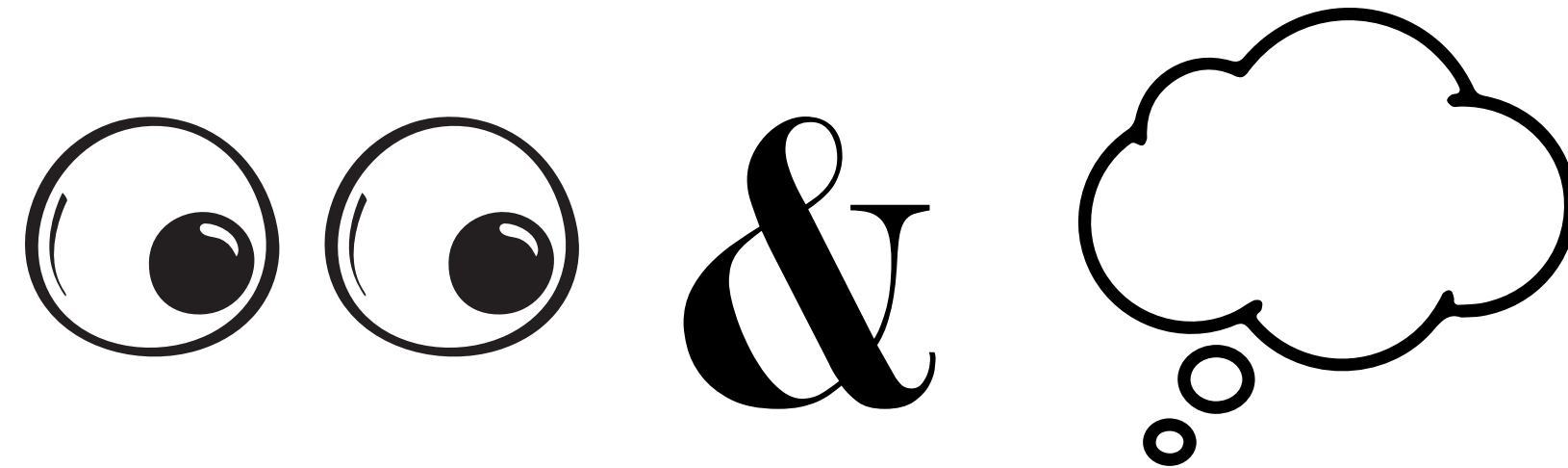
Social Writing

- ☐ Engages in writing exchanges (notes, lists, messages)
- ☐ Shares or reads work to or with peers
- ☐ Negotiates what to write through dialogue with peers



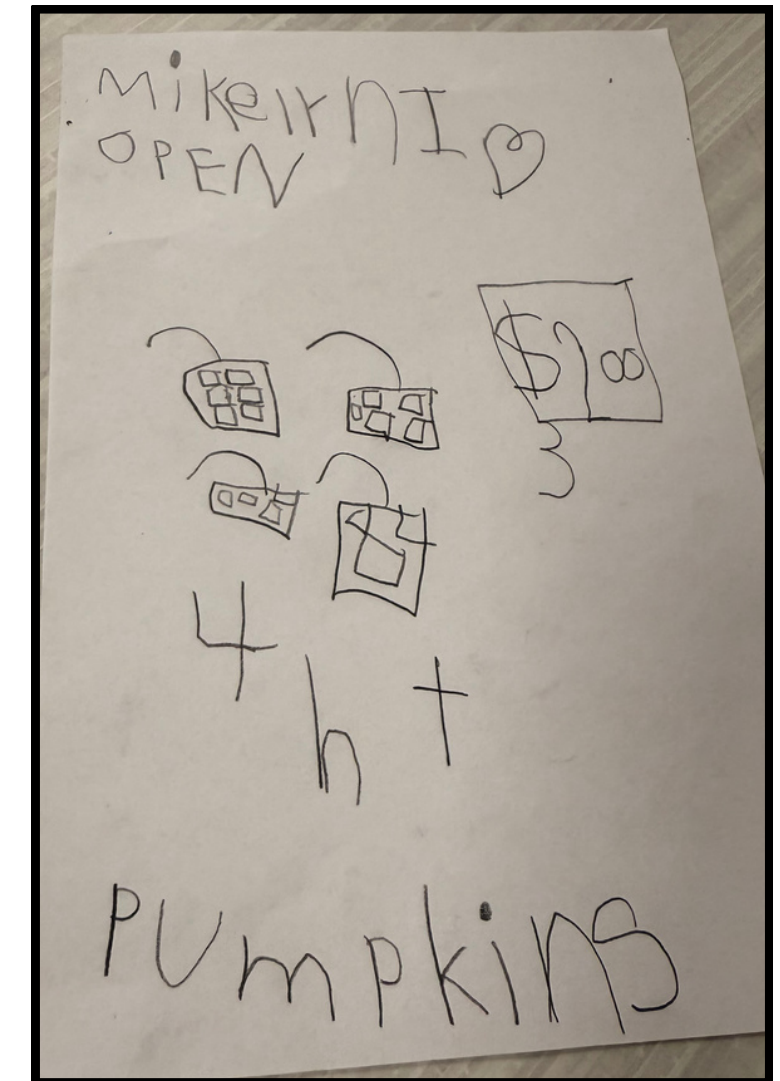
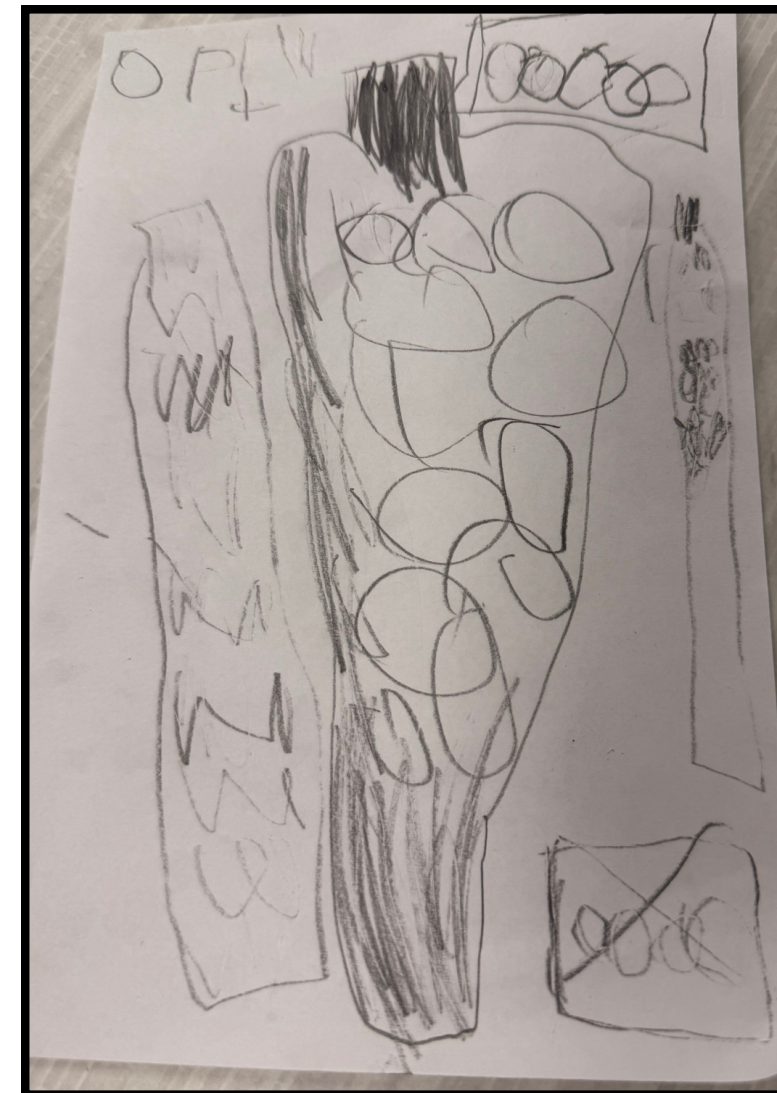
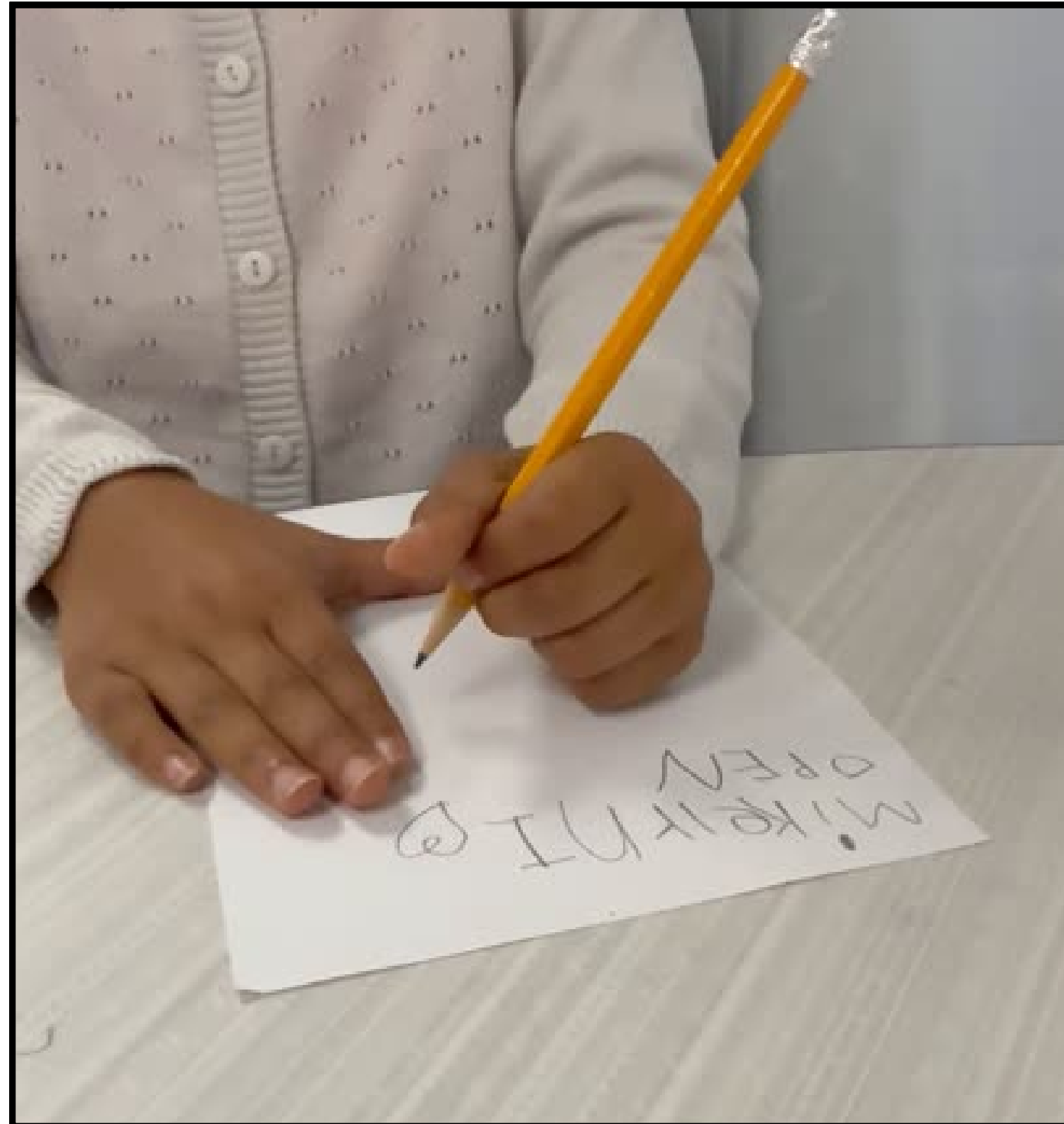
How can I capture what
students are doing with
print so I can make
instructional decisions?

Let's Watch Some Writers



- Authenticity of the *writing*
- Authenticity of the *conversation*
- Writing Outcomes

Kindergarten Pumpkin Patch



lets

TALK

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Literacy Station Time



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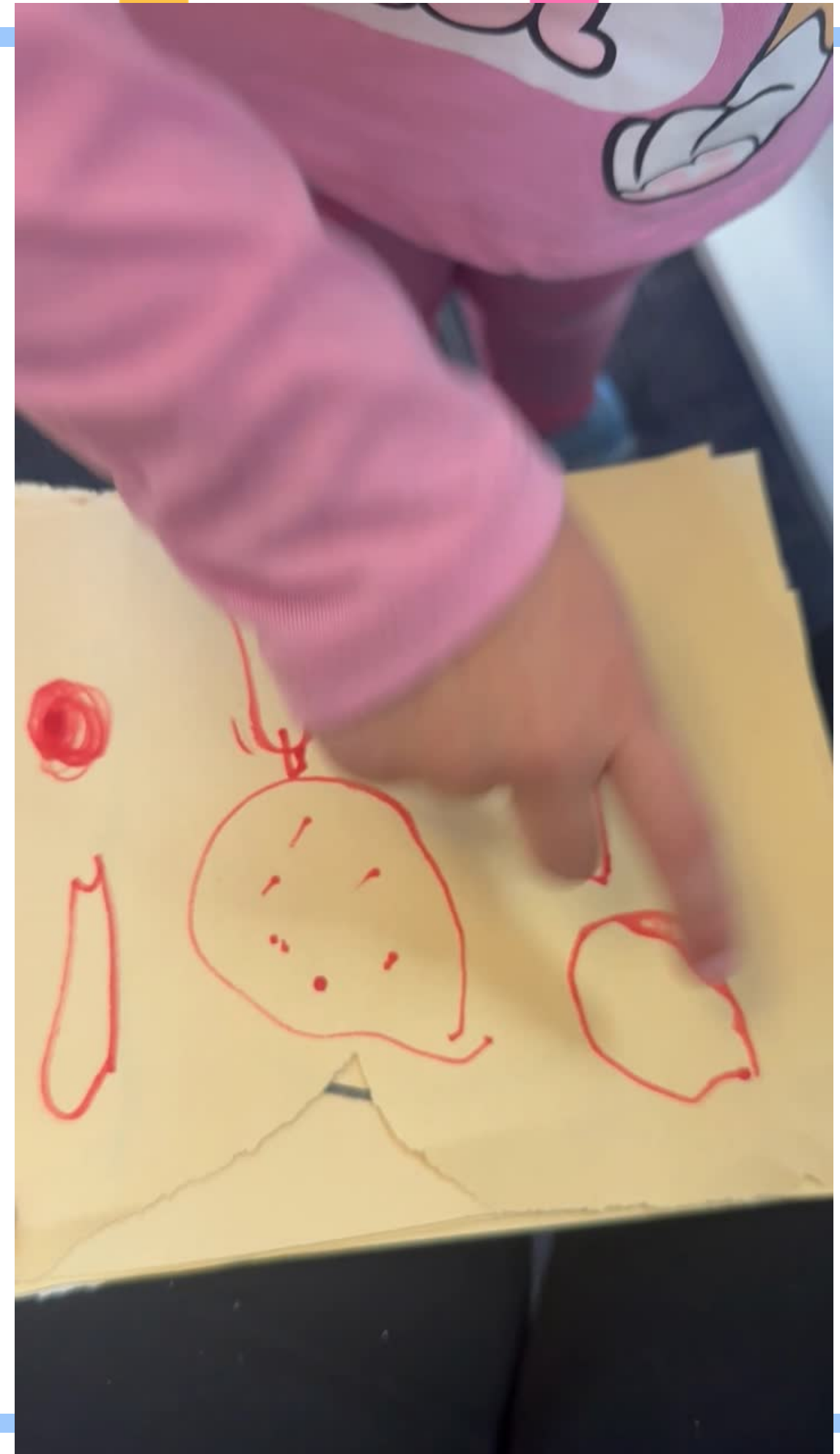
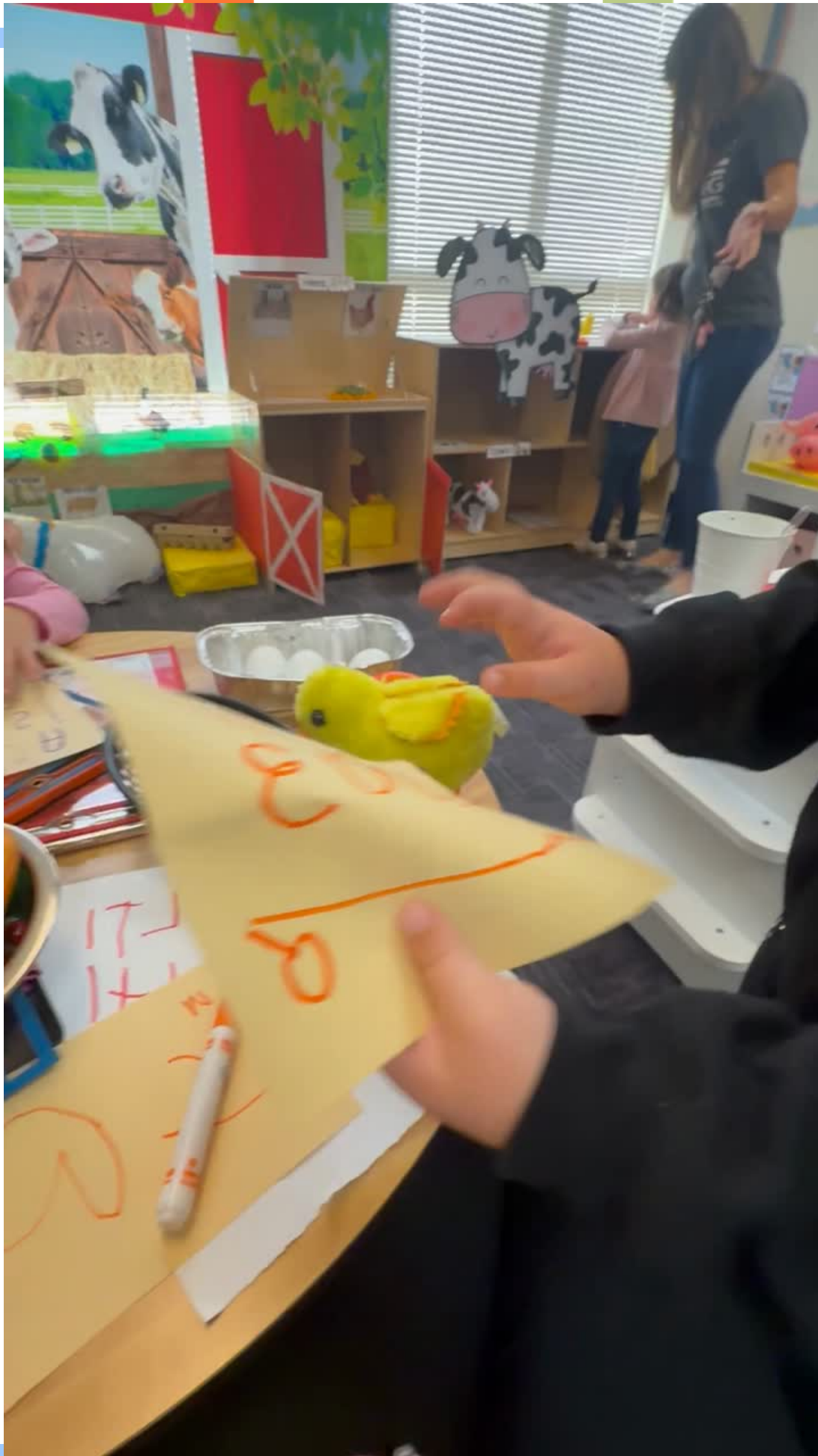
Social Writing

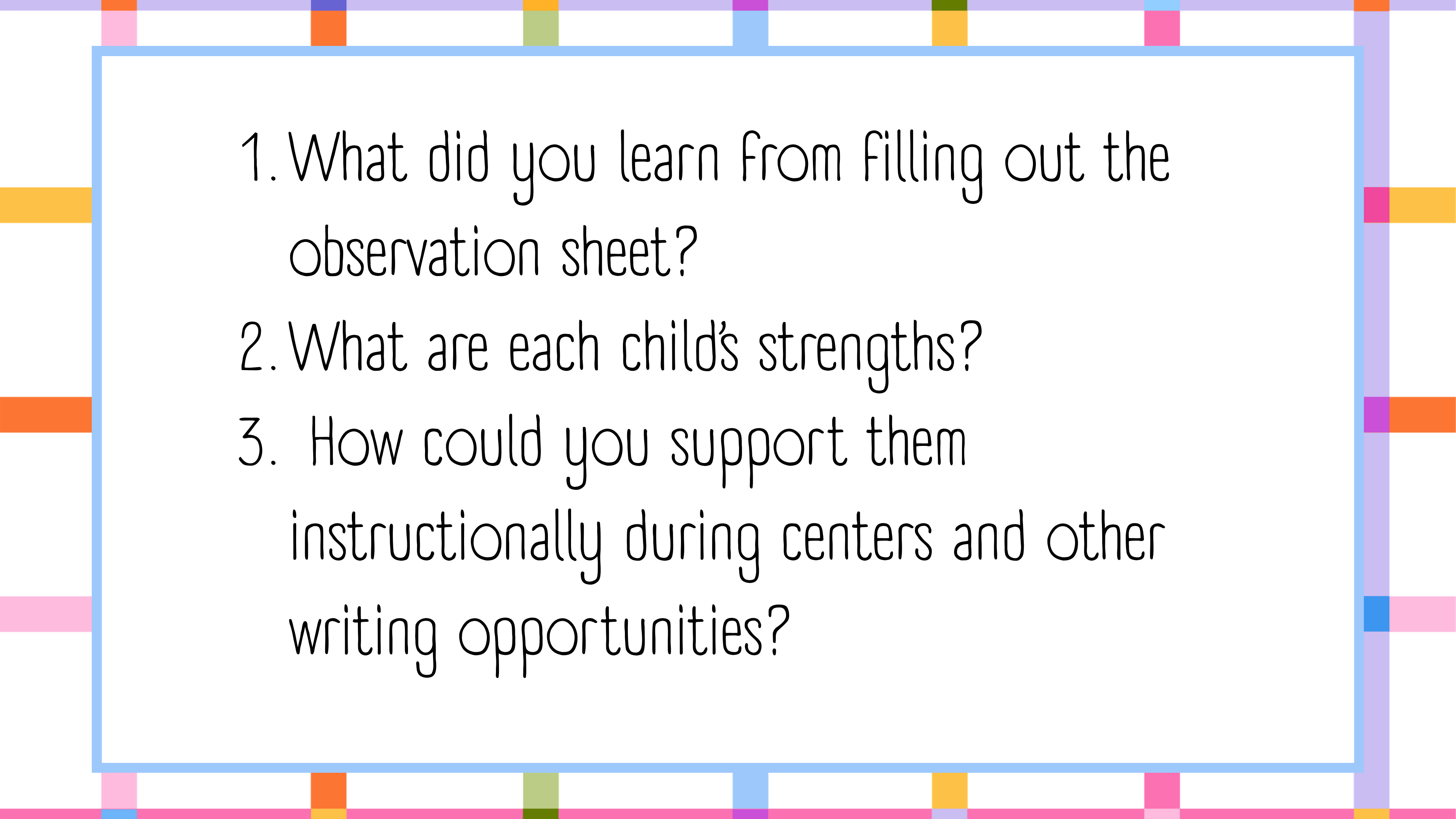
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**YOUR
TURN**

1. We will watch it once so you can see the whole thing.
2. Second go around, you will fill out the page for both students.



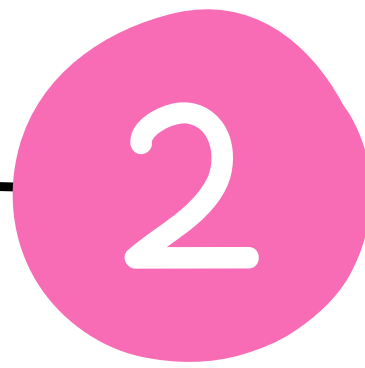
- 
1. What did you learn from filling out the observation sheet?
 2. What are each child's strengths?
 3. How could you support them instructionally during centers and other writing opportunities?

Write Down 2-3 Themes From Your
Learning Today

1



2



3



My Themes

1

Writing Is Developed
Through Multimodal
Play

2

Oral Language is A
Bridge to Written
Language

3

An Invitation To Try
From a Teacher Can
Prompt Extension &
Application



ATTENTION!

IMPORTANT

WANT ATTENDANCE CREDIT?

To receive attendance credit for all sessions, you **must fill** out the feedback form after each session. You can get to the feedback form by using the tinyurl below or scanning the QR code. Please do so within 30 minutes of the session ending. You will receive a copy of your response, so you can make sure you did your survey and to check attendance. **Save this for your records!**

<https://tinyurl.com/ENGAGE26FB>

SCAN HERE ➤

