
Classroom Documentation: Making Learning Visible



grow
play
learn

Intentionality

What types of learning and experiences are we documenting?

Why do we document?

Documentation...

- Policies and Procedures
- Daily Sheets
- Incident Reports
- Newsletters
- Bulletin Boards
- Posters, Décor
- Art Projects/Worksheets
- Photos



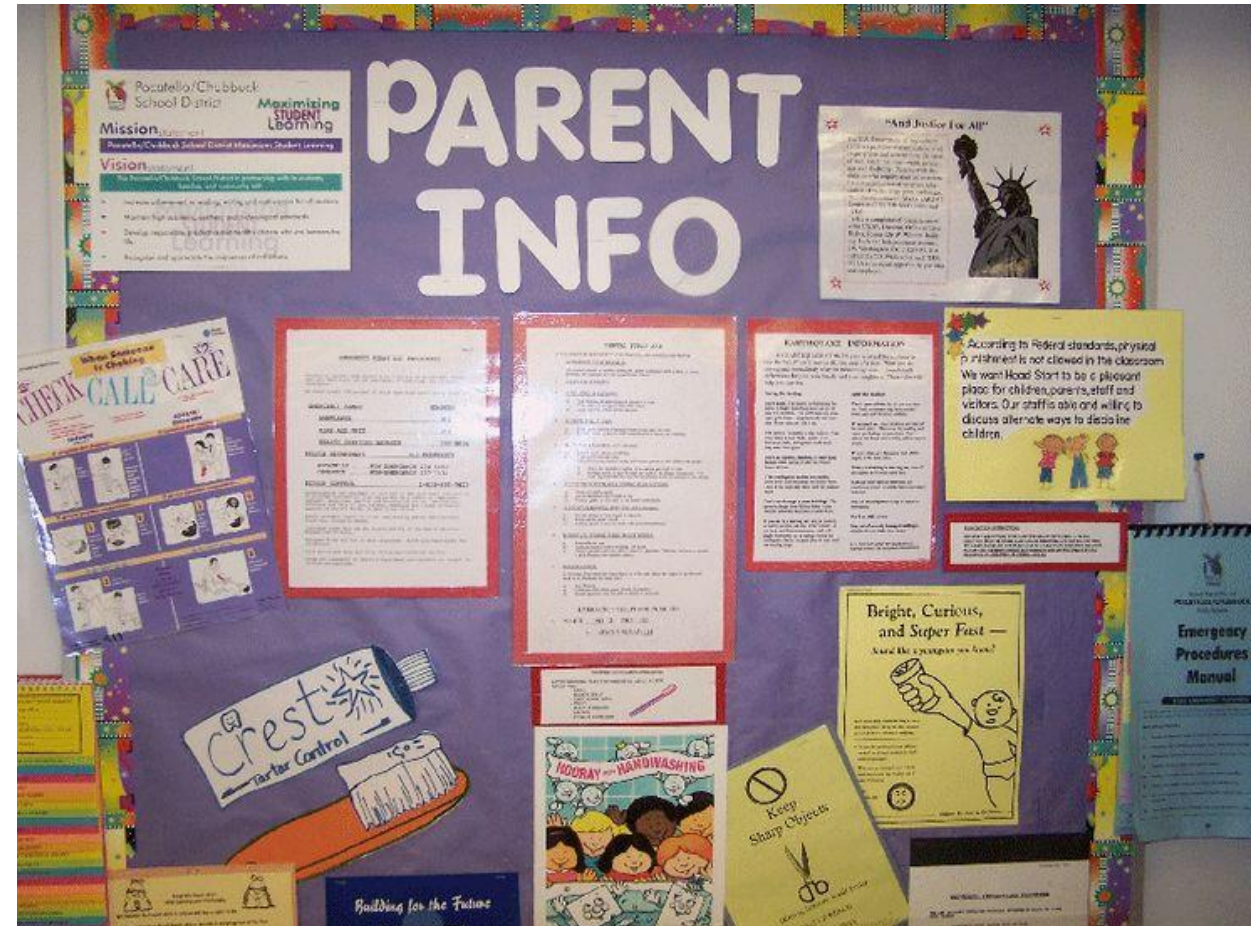
Documentation...

- Provides opportunities for reflection and revisiting experiences
- Allows for exploration implications of children's work
- Tells the story of classroom activities
- Provides accountability
- Lends credibility
- Communicates the process and progress

Challenges to Messaging

- Confusing decorating and communicating
- Wasting time and space on non-messages
- Pragmatics

Who is the audience?
What is the message?



What is your message?

- What do you want parents to know about you?
- About your class?
- About their child?
- About learning?





Helpful Assumptions

1. No one wants to read it.
2. Almost no one will read all of it.
3. Almost everyone will misunderstand some part of it.



ARTICLE HEADLINE

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What to pack

- undies and other things on this
- toothbrush and toothpaste too
- moisturiser and toner and stuff
- computer, pocket pc and so on
- iphone and ipad too
- chargers for everything

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Documenting Learning

Baking Cookies



What we learned:

Creative expression

Science - Cause and Effect

Science – States of matter

Math - Size and shape

Math - Parts of a whole

Patience

What we used:

New vocabulary

All 5 senses

Large and small muscles

Cooperation

5 Elements of Documentation

1. Title
2. Description
 - Tell the story
 - Describe materials
 - Outline objectives and outcomes
3. Photos and work samples
 - Less is more
4. Use 3D materials when possible
5. Simple/consistent design



Photos

- Get on the child's level
- Show engagement – not posing
- Capture learning
- Add caption
- Use 5x7 or larger
- Simple design
- Less is more



Extras!

- Add articles or take-home resources/activities for parents
- Create documentation at the child's level with texture/interactive elements when possible
- Communicate to families
- Add photos of the board to teaching/NAEYC portfolios

Newsletters

- 5 Common Flaws:
 - Too wordy
 - Too crowded
 - Recycled content
 - Clip art/fonts/colors
 - No 'call to action'



Before



After