

**IDEAS FOR CHILDREN'S PORTFOLIOS**  
**NESD Head Start**

“A portfolio is a system for organizing samples of a child’s work to document progress over time. The items in a portfolio should be concrete examples of a child’s efforts, achievements, and approaches to learning.” *A Teacher’s Guide to Using the Creative Curriculum Developmental Continuum Assessment System.*

**Observations should include a variety of types:**

**Samples of each child’s work** (drawings, paintings, collages, weavings, cutting samples, writing/beginning writing, stories dictated to teacher, book made by child, computer printouts, graphs/drawings of science experiment, etc.)

**Written records of children’s interests** (questions children ask, favorite books, descriptions of drawings or other work, comments after a field trip, etc.)

**Digital Pictures** (of child during routines, engaging in physical activities, block building they made, role playing in dramatic play, etc.)

**Video/Audio Recordings**

**Parent Input** (from “Next Steps” and “Parent Comments” on the Creative Curriculum Family Report Form, Center Home Visit Conference Form & others)

**IEPs/Information from Special Ed. Staff**

**More Ideas:**

Digital Pictures:

- Social/Emotional: Using a spoon, brushing teeth, cleaning up, listening to a story
- Physical: Standing on top of the climber, riding a trike, swinging, completing a puzzle.
- Cognitive: Objects sorted by size and color, role playing in dramatic play, a helicopter made with Bristle Blocks.

Copies of children’s work:

- Drawings, paintings, collages, weavings
- Writing (scribbles, labels, letters, names and words, numbers, signs and messages)
- A story dictated to a teacher and/or illustrated by the child
- A book made by the child
- Computer printouts
- Graphs or drawings of a science experiment

Written records of a child’s interests:

- Questions – asked or answered during a small-group activity
- Favorite Books
- Descriptions of drawings and other work
- Comments after a field trip

Video and audio recordings of a child’s language development:

- Singing, telling a story, or playing with others
- Conversing during a family-style meal
- Engaging in dramatic play
- Identifying a solution to a problem

(Ideas taken from *The Creative Curriculum for Preschool*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition)

Allow parents to look through their child’s portfolio work at each conference/home visit, but it’s a good idea to keep all the child’s work in the file until the end of the school year to show progress (then parents can take it home – although you may want to keep some things for repeat children).