

# + Individualization



Individualization is the heart of HighScope and Head Start. When teachers plan intentionally, they ensure that each child receives the appropriate level of support and scaffolding to move forward. Individualization means meeting children where they are and sends children the important message that their teachers know them well and care deeply about building relationships with them.

## +Resources for individualization:

[Home Visit Individualization plan](#)

[Parent-teacher Conference Individual Plan](#)

Letter/Number ID form (HS only)

COR Advantage Family Report/summary

COR Advantage reports: Growth report,

Strengths and Opportunities report

NumbersPlus kit (HS only)

[Individualized Matrix](#)

Denver and DECA reports

COR Advantage Scoring guide

IEP/IFSP goals

[ELOF app](#)

Developmental Milestones (EHS only)

### +Individualization Plan

Review the resources listed above as you meet with your teaching team. Consider what you see your children doing during Worktime, Group times, Outside time and meals. Now that you know these things, ask yourself some questions—what changes to the materials might you make? Any changes to the daily routine? Where will these observations fit into your lesson plan? The questions you consider as you individualize are: what? (clear, specific, objective anecdotes and observations), So what? (why is this observation important? What did you learn about the child/children?) and Now what? (what will you plan or change based on what you know?)

Individualizing means understanding and knowing each child's developmental level, temperament, likes and dislikes, triggers, capacity for impulse control, and typical responses to stimulation. It's the highest form of respect and the highest form of teaching. Individualizing means offering authentic (limited) choices and it means we assume positive intent.

If a child has an IEP or IFSP begin your planning with that child in mind. Use visual cues, individualized Daily Routine cards/photos and consider adaptations or accommodations necessary to support children in doing things by themselves. For all children, remember the power of clear and concise and positively stated expectations for all parts of the day.

Individualization can feel like a daunting task, especially when you have so many children to plan for intentionally. COR Advantage is a very helpful tool, highlighting where the child is now and where he can be next. When you combine predictability and flexibility with individualization you are creating classrooms of trust, safety, and respect.