**Thinking Intentionally: Mind-minded Practice**

Observation & Reflection Guide

**Terminology:**

* Emotional competence (or literacy) refers to the ability to notice, make sense of, and to respond appropriately to one’s own emotions (feelings) and the emotions expressed by others.
* Social competencemeans that one has the social, emotional, and intellectual skills and behaviors needed to succeed as a member of society.

*“Mind-mindedness is the attention caregivers give to what is going on in the minds of infants and young children – their desires, emotions, likes, dislikes, thoughts, and beliefs. Mind-mindedness is an essential aspect of reflective practice. Mind-minded parents and caregivers respond as if children’s acts are meaningful – that their actions are motivated by feelings, thoughts, or intentions. We are not “mind-readers,” but, with practice, we can become increasingly aware of what infants and children communicate about what is going on in their minds.”*

Write your answers below each of the following questions.

**In your early childhood practice, you might not think in terms of “mind-mindedness”. What words would you use to describe the practice described above?**

**When are you most likely to practice in this way?**

**When are you least likely to engage in mind-minded practice?**

Genato & Issa - Write your answers below each of the following questions.

*“Notice how the teacher in this video clip interprets Genato’s intention to Issa”.*

***What does she say to show that she understands what Genato is trying to communicate?***

***How does she acknowledge what Issa may be feeling?***

Denise & Tristan - Write your answers below each of the following questions.

**What does Denise do and say to let Tristan know that she is aware of:**

* **His interest:**
* **His effort:**
* **His feelings:**

**How might this make Tristan feel in this situation?**

Julie & Samantha - Write your answers below each of the following questions.

**Write some of the mind-minded comments and questions Julie used to support Samantha’s communication and understanding.**

**How might this example of mind-minded practice support Samantha’s development of:**

* **Emotional competence?**
* **Social competence?**