

# Child Study Portfolio

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## **Descriptive Review of Amelia**

### Part 1:

As a teacher, how can I effectively support Amelia's reading development during whole group activities while ensuring that she meets school expectations? Additionally, what strategies can I implement to address the question of whether a child needs to know how to read by first grade?

### Part 2:

How can I modify the classroom environment to foster early reading comprehension skills for a 4-year-old who is resistant to changing her eating habits and often seeks attention through disruptive behavior?

### **Background Information**

Amelia is a four-year-old who is extroverted and cheerful. She attends the Staten Island daycare for 1-4 years old. Even though it is only a daycare, the children learn the ABCs, the weather, the days of the week, the months of the year, how to recognize and write their names, and much more! Since she was a newborn, Amelia has attended this daycare. Amelia's mother is now expecting a kid, however she is now an only child. Although Amelia's parents know the language fluently, she is unable to speak it but is able to understand. Her parents are from Albania. Amelia can only communicate in English.

### **Physical Presence & Gesture**

Amelia is a four-year-old girl who is very talkative and lively. She has a light complexion and eyes that are really blue like the ocean. Her enticing charm is enhanced by her long, lush lashes that move every time she blinks. Amelia weighs in at about forty-five pounds, which is a significant weight that corresponds with her increasing growth. Her taste in clothing is as broad as her personality; she may be seen wearing tracksuits with Frozen themes, plaid gowns, and chic Moncler patterns.

Amelia's loving mother carefully styles her daughter's hair every day, resulting in a variety of looks that include sophisticated updos, elaborate French braids, and fun fishtail braids. There are often painful times in their morning routine as Amelia alternates between clutching desperately to her mother's arm and begging her to stay and then eagerly racing to greet her friends in the next moment.

Although she often uses a softer tone to get attention or come across as younger than she actually is, Amelia has a strong presence and a voice that can be heard throughout the classroom. Her happy disposition comes through when she plays games of tag or takes part in tea parties with her classmates during recess.

Amelia's expressiveness also includes periods of annoyance, as seen by the furrows in her brows when she is interrupted during pretend play with the dollhouse, which is one of her favorite activities. Nonetheless, she exhibits incredible athletic ability, leaping and sprinting with grace during movement exercises, and recess games.

In addition to her physical abilities Amelia exhibits remarkable cognitive ability. She is particularly skilled at tasks like cutting with scissors, building with Legos, sketching shapes, writing her name and numbers, and solving puzzles, which she finds extremely enjoyable.

When I read aloud to the class or in group settings, Amelia becomes restless unless I read and simultaneously play with her hair or lightly stroke her arm because she feels comforted by my presence. Her passion, though, is most evident in art class, when she patiently sits in an upright

posture, excitedly participating in conversations and sharing her work with her classmates. She displays confidence when showcasing her artwork, especially when she's building structures with complementary colors or playing around with painting and color mixing techniques.

When Amelia does well in an activity, her ability to socialize comes through in her vibrant interactions with her classmates, which leads to stimulating talks and friendships. Despite her talent for art, she struggles with writing and letter recognition. She finds difficulty in writing and letter identification because she struggles to match letters with their corresponding sounds. Nevertheless, she demonstrates resilience by seeking assistance when she is having trouble with letters, which reflects her will to get over challenges in her educational journey.

### **Disposition and Temperament**

Amelia is a four-year-old child with a lot of energy who is animated and expressive. Her eyes are a deep ocean blue, and her complexion is pale. Amelia exudes personality in all she does. Her voice is audible from across the room, and she enjoys talking a lot. Amelia's excitement is infectious, whether she's playing with friends or showcasing her most recent artwork.

Amelia is an energetic girl, but she also needs to feel secure and close to those she knows well.

She is most at ease when seated next to her teacher during group exercises. She occasionally feels happier and more at ease when her teacher plays with her hair while reading aloud to the class.

Art class is Amelia's favorite part of the day. She gets quite absorbed in the activities while sitting on the floor with her legs crossed. She enjoys combining colors and using blocks to construct objects. In art class I constructed an activity that involved making art out of a collage of objects. This was her most favorite activity because it was like a puzzle. Amelia gets excited when she can show friends her completed projects.

Amelia used to care only about having fun. However, after witnessing her friend Chloe become the first person to read, write, and recognize every letter of the alphabet, she set out to do the same, with lots of encouragement and individual help.

Amelia is extroverted and enjoys forming new friendships. She likes to have conversations with her fellow classmates at every opportunity she can get. She forms close bonds with other students in the classroom because of her amiable disposition.

Amelia's personality is a combination of friendliness, determination, excitement, and enthusiasm. We can foster an environment where she feels supported and inspired to study and use her amazing personality to help her growth.

### **Connection With Others**

Amelia enjoys being involved in all school activities, especially when it comes to play and art projects. She is quite talkative and frequently uses questions or stories to start conversations. For instance, Amelia became quite interested when we discussed snow and informed everyone about her snowy trips with her family. Her friends wanted to share their own snowy stories because they were all so intrigued!

I recommended that we color some images of various weather scenarios after our conversation. Amelia shocked us all by selecting a beach scene when the majority of the children selected cold scenes. Other children chose to copy her choice of the beach since they thought it was so cool.

Chloe is Amelia's best friend, and they spend all of their time together. During recess, they even hold hands and occasionally wear identical outfits.

What's great about Amelia is that she's not clingy or possessive. If Chloe wants to play with someone else, Amelia is fully okay with it.

During recess, Amelia loves saying hello to everyone, even to people she doesn't know. She peeks through the hole in the gate and screams HEY! She's really friendly and makes sure nobody feels left out. Amelia is like a ray of sunshine, spreading happiness wherever she goes.

Amelia is incredibly giving; she gives out her food, toys, coloring books, and whatever else someone asks for without hesitation. She occasionally forgets that not everyone has the same generosity which causes her to have a tendency to take items without permission, even if someone else has been using them before. Unfortunately, this irritates other people—especially

the kids. She appeared to comprehend when we had a one-on-one talk in which I gave her advice on the value of respecting other people's property and assured her that her mother would be proud of her efforts. However, the same pattern was repeated the following day.

When someone is upset, Amelia likes to check on them and see if they're okay. It's amazing how just her presence can make them feel better. This helpful conversation often ends up in the children playing with each other. For instance, one day during recess in November, a friend named Mason fell off his bike. He wasn't hurt, but he got scared and started crying. I helped him calm down and offered him some play dough to play with if he didn't feel like playing outside. When Amelia asked him if he was okay, he perked up and suggested they play hide and seek.

I have a unique connection with Amelia, and we've become close friends. We've established ground rules for one another about what's acceptable and unacceptable and if she follows them she gets rewarded. When Amelia gets upset, she comes to talk to me about it. Our chats can be pretty long sometimes and it seems like I'm her go-to person to share her feelings with.

### **Strong Interests & Preferences**

Amelia's lively disposition and distinctive hobbies shed light on her interactions and experiences in the classroom and provide a fascinating look into her diverse personality. Amelia's love of imaginative play is the core of her universe. Her imagination is endless, whether she's setting up tea parties for her peers or using dolls to act out pretend scenarios. Amelia can take herself and her friends to any place she wants where anything is possible thanks to her active imagination.



Amelia's artistic nature is allowed to blossom in art class. With a variety of colors at her disposal, she avidly experiments with Lego painting, drawing, and constructing. Her passion for blending colors and trying out various media reveals an attention to detail and an innate desire for self-expression. Everytime Amelia blends a color she screams the color she gets and makes sure everyone is watching her. Additionally Amelia's favorite activity in art is lego paintings because it is a puzzle!

Amelia's relationships with peers demonstrate her supportive attitude. She is quick to comfort and help others, exhibiting compassion and understanding that transcends her age. Her capacity to encourage others cultivates a spirit of togetherness and respect among all members of the classroom community.

Strong relationships with her classmates, especially with Chloe, her best friend, highlight Amelia's fondness for company and social interaction. Their mutual support and sense of camaraderie are evident in their shared hobbies and activities, which adds to the warmth and openness of their friendships.

Even though Amelia is independent, she understands the importance of asking reliable adults for advice, especially her teacher. Her openness to have open discussions highlights her dedication to personal development, whether she is overcoming obstacles in her writing or looking for comfort when she is feeling frustrated.

All things considered, Amelia's choices and interests provide a clear picture of an intrigued, kind, and imaginative person navigating the pleasures and difficulties of childhood. Amelia's journey is shaped by her passion for creative expression, imaginative play, and deep relationships with people.

### **Modes of Thinking or Learning**

Amelia's colorful personality and unique point of view are reflected in her approach to schooling. She likes to make up stories. Whether she's painting or just playing pretend, she never stops coming up with new ideas and trying new things. Learning is made more exciting and enjoyable by her creativity, which shines through in everything she does.

She enjoys art class the most because it gives her the freedom to express herself. She loves experimenting with different art supplies and techniques, and she is always excited to see what she can accomplish. Her open-mindedness and willingness to explore new things make her an excellent artist and enjoyable to work with as a classmate.

Amelia's modest attitude to learning and thinking is intricately woven into her persona. Although she manages her difficulties in silence, she also believes that showing her weaknesses or asking for assistance could make her appear less capable. Her tendency to put up a front of dependency and attention-seeking behavior—a tactic she thinks would bring her more benefits—is a manifestation of this inner conflict. But even with all of this complexity, Amelia remains modest about her educational path. She struggles with the dread of coming across as

incompetent, even though she recognizes the importance of asking for help and comments.

Despite this, she quietly pursues growth and development, frequently behind the scenes, because of her natural curiosity and passion for knowledge. She longs to be in her social circle, especially among her pals.

As Amelia navigates the challenges of identification and validation, the complicated interaction between her need for affirmation and her humble attitude to learning highlights her journey of self-discovery and personal growth. To summarize Amelia approaches learning with creativity, empathy, teamwork, and a desire to learn and develop. She makes every learning experience joyful and enthusiastic with her positive attitude and hopeful outlook, which makes her a well-liked member of the classroom community.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, even though Amelia currently boasts a wealth of admirable traits and abilities, there is always room for development. Developing her focus and concentration during scheduled activities, like reading sessions or group meetings, is one area where she might improve. We can assist her in realizing her full learning potential by assisting her in developing techniques for staying focused and engaged.

In order to keep her engaged, as her teacher, I can use techniques like setting clear goals, introducing interactive components into classes, and allowing for frequent pauses. I may also work closely with Amelia's parents to make sure that her home and school experiences are

consistent. By working together, we may create routines and tactics for reinforcement that will promote involvement in a variety of activities and sustained focus.

Additionally, encouraging open communication between the home and the school is crucial for coordinating activities and resolving any issues or problems that could come up. We may collaborate as a team to support Amelia's holistic development by exchanging reports on her progress on a regular basis and talking about ways to make improvements.

# **Childs Work Samples**

**Work Sample #1:**





Work Sample #2:



Work Sample #3:





## Work Sample 1# Analysis

The artwork in question was created by Amelia while watching a video demonstration. The video featured a narrator's hand drawing and adding color slowly, providing explanations along the way. Amelia followed along with the video, showcasing her artistic abilities at the age of 4. While she didn't replicate the colors exactly as shown in the video, she added her own unique touch to the artwork.

Amelia's artwork displays her developing inventiveness and provides insights into her developing skills. It also shows her cognitive and motor growth. Her ability to follow up with a video demonstration reveals enhanced visual processing and attention span, highlighting cognitive progress. Her readiness to add a special touch, however, shows that her creativity—a crucial cognitive ability—is developing. Amelia's drawing reveals information about her hand-eye coordination and fine motor abilities in terms of her motor development. Even though she could have trouble with accuracy, her ability to use sketching tools indicates improvement in her fine motor skills.

Overall, Amelia's perseverance and effort in finishing the drawing in spite of obstacles show increasing resilience and determination, which are essential traits for learning and growth. We may encourage Amelia's continued development in both the cognitive and motor domains by fostering her creativity and providing her with kind direction. Amelia can continue to express herself and advance in her development through drawing and other creative endeavors.

## **Work sample #2 Analysis**

### **\*\*Analysis of Work Sample #2: Kinetic Sand Building\*\***

Amelia's interest in kinetic sand construction offers an intriguing glimpse into her cognitive and motor growth. Amelia exhibits a variety of talents and abilities via her investigation of this tactile media, highlighting her developing fine motor control and cognitive comprehension.

Amelia's cognitive abilities in spatial reasoning and problem-solving are firstly demonstrated by her ability to work with the kinetic sand to construct a sandcastle. She must envision the intended structure, arrange each component, and make any necessary revisions as she builds and refines her work. The cognitive skills needed for this process include organization, sequencing, and spatial awareness, all of which support her general cognitive growth.

Amelia's capacity to think creatively and adaptably is also evidenced by the choices she makes when building sandcastles. Her editing and design improvements show that she can assess the results, adjust to changing conditions, and come up with new ideas. In a variety of situations, creativity and problem-solving are encouraged by this crucial cognitive ability of mental flexibility.

Through her love of kinetic sand building, Amelia exhibits her cognitive growth, hand-eye coordination, and fine motor skills. Sand molding, contouring, and sculpting demands precise finger dexterity and hand control. As Amelia works with the sand to make elaborate creations like gates and snowmen, she is strengthening the muscles in her hands and fingers and developing her fine motor skills.

Furthermore, Amelia's sensory-motor integration is improved by the tactile input that kinetic sand offers. Through the simultaneous use of touch, sight, and proprioception, she is honing her coordination skills between sensory input and motor output. The development of abilities like handwriting, tool use, and spatial awareness depends on this fusion of sensory and motor information.

Amelia's involvement in kinetic sand creation exhibits a wide range of cognitive and motor development overall. She is improving her fine motor skills, creativity, problem-solving abilities, spatial reasoning, and sensory-motor integration by participating in this practical exercise. We can help Amelia grow and enable her to realize her full potential by giving her the chance to practice and explore activities that promote cognitive and motor development on a constant basis.

### **Work Sample # 3 Analysis**

Amelia's painting endeavors reveal valuable details about her artistic expression and potential growth areas. Amelia illustrates her creativity and imagination by sketching a scene with flowers and her own garden. It also draws attention to her areas of improvement. One thing that truly stands out about Amelia's paintings is her tendency to overcrowd the space with various items. Though it could be beneficial if she focused on painting one area of the canvas at a time, it is clear that she enjoys painting. If the composition is divided into smaller sections, Amelia can better control the space and keep herself from becoming overwhelmed by the variety of colors and shapes. While still keeping her writing consistent and understandable, she can look over each component in greater detail.

Amelia's dissatisfaction with the way paint mixes change color also points to a chance for her knowledge of color theory and paint mixing methods to advance. Giving her direction and advice on color mixing will help her learn how to accomplish the desired tones and hues more skillfully. She may also gain confidence and control over the painting process if you encourage her to try mixing colors on a different palette before applying them to the canvas.

Amelia might gain by improving her technical abilities in addition to perseverance and patience when painting. She can become more resilient and persistent if she learns to accept the iterative nature of creating art and realizes that making mistakes is a necessary part of the creative process. Encouraging her to approach painting with a sense of curiosity and experimentation,

rather than focusing solely on the final outcome, can foster a more positive and growth-oriented mindset.

All things considered, Amelia's interest in painting offers a wealth of opportunities for creative discovery and skill improvement. We may help Amelia develop her artistic skills and paint more efficiently by teaching her color mixing techniques, encouraging patience and persistence, and assisting her in concentrating on one region at a time. Amelia can reach her full potential as an artist and enjoy the creative process if she practices and receives support in her artistic development.

## Commentary

Amelia is a lively and cheerful four-year-old who adds joy to our classroom every day. By watching how she plays and interacts with others, we learn a lot about how she grows and learns. When it comes to making friends, Amelia is a natural. She loves being in the middle of things during playtime and art class, chatting and sharing with her friends like Chloe. They're practically inseparable! Even during recess, Amelia isn't shy – she'll wave and say hi to everyone, even people she doesn't know yet.

Amelia is really smart too. She can watch a video and copy what the person is doing, showing she can pay attention and remember things. When she draws or paints, her imagination shines through. Even though she may not color inside the lines perfectly, you can see she puts a lot of effort into making her artwork special. When it comes to using her hands, Amelia is pretty good. She can build things with sand or paint with brushes without any trouble. But sometimes, she gets frustrated if things don't go the way she wants, like when the colors mix together in her painting.

One thing I really like about Amelia is how caring she is. If someone is sad, she'll go over and try to make them feel better. She's also not afraid to show her feelings, whether she's happy, excited, or upset.

In the end, Amelia is a wonderful kid with lots of strengths and some areas where she can keep growing. By giving her lots of love and support, we can help her become even more amazing as she continues to learn and play with her friends.

### **Activities Recommended**

1. **Creative Play Sessions:** Arrange activities that encourage role-playing and creative narrative. Amelia will be able to explore and lose herself in her imagination with the aid of themed play areas, costumes, and props.
2. **Art classes** focused on experimenting with different mediums and production techniques. Amelia will be given a variety of tools to use such as collage materials, paints, pastels, and clay. Encourage her to communicate her ideas, emotions, and thoughts via her artwork.
3. **Hikes in the outdoors and nature:** Take Amelia on outdoor exploration and nature hikes. Encourage her to observe and interact with her surroundings in order to instill in her a sense of wonder and curiosity about the natural world.
4. **Collaborative Projects with Peers:** Be a leader in group activities to promote cooperation and teamwork among peers and gain leadership skills. Amelia's social skills and feeling of community will be strengthened by doing this.
5. **Storytelling and Creative Writing:** Give Amelia the chance to write and tell her own imaginative stories through storytelling and creative writing activities. While she explores this field, support and mentor her in using her creative imagination to develop characters, settings, and storylines.

6. Sensational Play Activities: Arrange activities that stimulate Amelia's senses and offer opportunity to utilize all the senses in the body. Provide things such as water, sand, rice, or sensory dough in sensory bins so she may explore and play with colors, shapes, and textures.
7. Mindfulness and Relaxation Activities: Teach Amelia how to practice mindfulness and relaxation techniques like deep breathing exercises in order to help her achieve a state of calm and relaxation. These are the activities that will work best for her when she's feeling very enthusiastic or excited or even stressed.
8. Literacy and Linguistic Development: Provide reading assignments that encourage Amelia to pursue her interests and challenge her language skills. Allow her to use writing, storytelling, and reading aloud to express herself and increase her vocabulary.
9. By offering a variety of activities that are catered to Amelia's interests, strengths, and preferences, I will create a supportive and engaging learning environment that promotes her creativity, social skills, and overall growth.