**Learning Stories**

A Learning Story is first and foremost a story. It tells a tale to the child, to the family, to community, and to ourselves as teachers of children. There is not one right way to do it.

However, it does begin with the child’s initiative and progresses through the subsequent stages of engagement (becoming involved) and intentionality (causing something). It is always about strength-based.

For the Learning Stories assignment, you will write about what you observed during your implementation of your Planned Curriculum Activities.

**A Learning Story Convention**

1. Title the Learning Story- every good story starts with a title.
2. Include photos of the child engaged in the STEM activity.
3. Begin with your own interest in what the child has taken the initiative to do. When you talk about yourself in the first person using “I...” you give a “voice” to the storyteller. The observer brings a perspective that is essential to the tale. Write directly to the child in the first person narrative. For example, “Annie, today when you were stacking the caps…”

2. Describe what the child does and says from your perspective as someone who cares and is listening closely to discover what is happening. It is not totally objective: you are present with your heart.

1. Title a paragraph “What it Means”- interpretation and write about significance of what you saw. This meaning-making is best done in a dialogue with other teachers. Many perspectives can be included here. If this is voiced directly to the child, the child can hear you speak your words.
2. Title a second paragraph

“Opportunities and Possibilities” and describe what we can do next and what the future may hold. This gives insight to others about the future possibilities of further learning.

1. For your learning story of the child of your choice, ask the parent or family member to respond with their view and reaction to what you wrote. Their response needs to be written directly to the child in the first person narrative. Include your team member response for the Learning Stories for the Service Learning event.