



ORISUN ACADEMY FOR HEALING ARTS

CLASSROOM OBSERVATION FORM

Family Observation Guide

Welcome to Orisun Academy for Healing Arts. We are happy to have you observe. Classroom observation gives families an opportunity to see Montessori principles, the prepared environment, and the Orisun learning model in practice. The suggestions below will help protect each scholar's concentration, dignity, and privacy while allowing you to observe authentically.

Observer Name: _____	Date: _____
Scholar Observed: _____	Village/Grade: _____

GUIDELINES FOR CLASSROOM OBSERVATION

- 1. Seek to be unobtrusive:** The goal is to observe your child and the classroom without interfering with children's work or disrupting the routine. Please silence and put away your phone. An observation chair will be provided. Refrain from walking around the classroom unless invited, as this may disturb scholars at work.
- 2. Observe your child:** Focus primarily on observing your own child. Watch for independence, concentration, choice-making, persistence, and engagement. Alternate between a wide-angle view of the whole classroom and a closer focus on your child.
- 3. Observe the learning environment:** Notice how the layout, materials, routines, and organization are designed to promote independence and exploration. Watch how scholars cooperate, work individually, and learn by observing peers. Notice how the Montessori guide differs from a traditional teacher.
- 4. Respect privacy:** Do not take photographs, video, or audio recordings during your observation. Please respect the privacy and confidentiality of every child, family, and staff member in the learning environment.
- 5. Reach out:** After your observation, you are welcome to schedule a follow-up conversation with your child's Mwalimu or Orisun school leadership if you have questions, would like clarification about what you observed, or want to learn more about the Montessori method and the Orisun learning model.

Observation Notes *(Use the checklist on page 2 to guide your notes.)*



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Family Observation Guide | Observation Checklist

Use the prompts below as a lens for your observation. There is no need to record everything you see. Instead, note patterns, moments of interest, questions, and examples that help you better understand your child and the learning environment.

CHECKLIST FOR ORISUN CLASSROOM OBSERVATION

Visual & Audio Perspective

Have you remembered to alternate between a wide-angle view of the entire classroom and a close-up of your own child? What stood out to you? Can you distinguish the normal hum of children being together from the special energy of children deeply engaged in learning?

Learning Styles

What different styles of learning do you notice? Look for intense individual concentration, movement-based learning, peer observation, collaboration, repetition, and independent problem-solving.

Scholar-to-Scholar Interactions

How do scholars speak and respond to one another? Where do you notice respect, cooperation, leadership, conflict resolution, or the normal pushes and pulls of childhood?

Mwalimu-to-Scholar Interaction

What differences do you notice between traditional teaching and the Montessori approach? How does the Mwalimu guide, observe, redirect, present lessons, or support independence?

Sociability & Community

Where are the pockets of sociability in the classroom? How do scholars join groups, work near one another, share materials, help peers, and participate in the learning community?

Autonomy & Independence

What evidence do you see of independence? Consider choice of work, care of materials, self-correction, movement, problem-solving, responsibility, concentration, and self-management.

Questions & Reflections

What questions do you want to discuss with your child's Mwalimu or school leadership after the observation? What surprised you, affirmed you, or made you curious?