

CORAdvantage[®]

Powered by  HIGHSCOPE[®]

Assessment Tool

Syllabus

HighScope's COR Advantage



HighScope Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (REDI) Professional Learning Statement

Advancing racial equity has been at the core of HighScope's vision since its beginnings with the landmark Perry Preschool Study. Building on our history and ongoing work in the field of early childhood education, HighScope has made racial equity, diversity, and inclusion central to all professional development programs. In all aspects of our work, we advocate for equity through awareness and personal reflection as we encourage educators to celebrate, respect, and incorporate diversity in their programs. We intentionally seek to eradicate racism and other inequities that oppress the potential of children, families, and adults from marginalized and underrepresented groups. Through consultation, training, mentoring, and coaching, HighScope's professional learning courses are designed to respond to participants' individual strengths and focus on practical application and implementation in real-world settings.

Participants are expected to reflect on how they can mitigate biases and inequitable practices, as well as

engage with other participants and HighScope trainer(s) on what they are learning and how the content of the course can be used to support the work they do with children and families in their respective early childhood programs and communities. HighScope has established a protocol to ensure that (1) all training content supports participants' knowledge base and practical application and implementation efforts; (2) all training is implemented at the highest level and as intended; and (3) all training and resource materials incorporate REDI practices and address issues of privilege and cultural sensitivity, as well as the importance of humility in our relationships with families and young children.

As we grow more aware of REDI concepts in our lives and practices, we must understand that equity and inclusion require a continual process of growth. It is important to remember that everyone has their own learning curve, and so as we strive for a more equitable and inclusive world for our children, there will be a need for both hope and grace.

International Accreditors for Continuing Education and Training

HighScope is proud to be an IACET Accredited Provider. IACET accreditation reflects the high bar of quality HighScope sets in providing professional learning and allows us to offer Continuing Education Units (CEUs) to learners.

Overall Learning Objectives:

- State the rationale for using an ongoing observational assessment
- Write complete and objective anecdotes
- Describe the scoring process and associated levels in COR Advantage
- Identify strategies for effectively engaging families in child assessment

Requirements to complete course and receive IACET CEUs*

- Complete all assignments within the course timeframe.
- Pass each Check My Understandings with an 80% or higher.
- Have a total overall score for the course of an 80% or higher.

*1 CEU = 10 Clock hours

Welcome to the HighScope COR Advantage Online Course!

This course is 5 weeks long (including the registration week). Each week runs from Monday to the following Monday. It takes about 3 hours to complete each week's assignments. You will get the most out of the course if you do the activities in the order listed. You must complete all the assignments on time to receive credit for the course. We recommend you log on early in the week to get your assignments so you can plan your work for the week. For your discussion post assignments, all initial posts are **due on Thursday** and your replies are **due by the following Monday**.

This course contains a variety of online activities:

- **Learning Unit** — A “learning unit” is the “chapter” that presents the content for the week. You may wish to print the learning unit so you can easily refer back to the content.
- **Reading Assignments** — These are necessary assignments you need to read to fully grasp the concepts discussed in this class. You might find it helpful to also print these out.
- **Check My Understanding** — These quick, interactive exercises will test your knowledge. You will decide the best answer to a variety of questions and scenarios.

Welcome to the HighScope COR Advantage Online Course! (continued)

- **Try It Out/Share What You Learned/Discussion Posts** — These are assignments in which you will try out strategies or ideas in the classroom. You may be asked to share what happened on a discussion post and get feedback from your classmates, or you may be asked to email an assignment to your instructor.

Remember, all course work for the week is **due by midnight on Monday (EST)**.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to send a message to your instructor in the HighScope Learning Hub.



Registration Week

Discussion

Introduce yourself to the group.

Your first assignment is to introduce yourself to your classmates. You might say something about where you work, the children you work with, and what you hope to get out of this class. Please feel free to share a little bit about your personal background as well.

Read your classmates' introductions and reply to other people's posts. This is how we get to know each other!



Week 1: Writing Anecdotes and Introducing the COR Advantage Categories

Objectives

Participants will be able to

- State the rationale for using an ongoing, observational assessment.
- Identify the requirements of high-quality evidence.
- Write complete and objective anecdotes.
- Identify the COR Advantage categories.

Learning Unit Topics

- What is COR Advantage?
- Steps for using COR Advantage
- A closer look at the categories

Reading Assignments

- “How Does HighScope Assess Children?” (You may find it useful to print a copy.)
- COR Advantage category descriptions in the *COR Advantage Scoring Guide*

Check My Understanding

Identify Complete and Objective Anecdotes

Review the format for writing objective anecdotes:

- Focus on what the child did and said.
- Be factual.
- Be specific.
- Be brief.

Week 1: Writing Anecdotes and Introducing the COR Advantage Categories (continued)

Read through each anecdote carefully. Decide if it is both complete and objective. If it meets the criteria for a complete and objective anecdote, select “Thumbs up” as your answer. If you don’t think it meets the criteria for a complete and objective anecdote, select “Thumbs down” as your answer.

This assignment is worth 10 points (1 per question).

Try It Out

Write Three Anecdotes

Write three anecdotes about children in your class. You can write three anecdotes on the same child or write an anecdote for three different children. Use the correct format for writing anecdotes. Make sure that your anecdotes are objective.

Your assignment has two parts:

- Select the following age range that most closely fits your anecdotes (Infant-Toddler, Preschool, or Kindergarten) and put it at the top of your post. Put your three anecdotes in one post, numbering them 1, 2, and 3. **This post is worth 10 points and is due Thursday.**
- Next, reply to two posts from other participants and provide feedback about their anecdotes to each of them. Please be specific — what was useful or confusing about the anecdote? Both of your replies are **worth 5 points each and are due the following Monday.**

Reminder: You are responsible for a total of 3 posts: 1 initial post (containing three anecdotes) due by Thursday and 2 separate replies due by the following Monday.

Week 1: Writing Anecdotes and Introducing the COR Advantage Categories (continued)

Share What You Learned

Your Thoughts About COR Advantage Categories

You have now been introduced to COR Advantage categories through your reading assignment. Share your thoughts by responding to one of the following questions:

1. How will these categories correspond with the work you do with your children?
2. What category are you most excited about? Why?
3. What category do you feel least familiar? Why?

Your assignment has two parts:

- In the Discussion tab under “Week 1 — Share What You Learned,” post your response. Put the number of the question you are answering at the top of your post. **This post is worth 10 points and is due on Thursday.**



Week 1: Writing Anecdotes and Introducing the COR Advantage Categories (continued)

- Next, reply to one other person's post. Be sure to reply to someone who answered a different question than you did. Your reply is **worth 5 points and is due the following Monday**.

Remember, your reply should further the thinking and discussion on this topic. Replies are most useful when you are building on an idea shared. You might share your perspective on the issue, add to the examples given, state why you agree or disagree, etc. Replies that just say "I agree," "Good idea," or "Me too" don't really add anything to the discussion, and you will not get credit for these types of replies.

Check back later in the week to see what has been posted, and scroll down to read recent entries.

Total points possible in Week 1 = 45.



Reminder: You are responsible for a total of 2 posts: 1 initial post due by Thursday and 1 reply due by the following Monday.

Week 2: Scoring Anecdotes & COR Advantage Items A–R

Objectives

Participants will be able to

- Identify the COR Advantage items A–R.
- Describe the scoring process and associated levels in COR Advantage.
- Match anecdotes to appropriate COR Advantage items and levels.

Learning Unit Topics

- COR Advantage items and levels A–R
- COR Advantage levels

Reading Assignments

- “Data In, Data Out: What Is High-Quality Documentation and Why Does It Matter?”
- Read through each item (A–R), development level, explanatory note, and sample anecdotes for the first four COR categories. (See *COR Advantage Scoring Guide*.)
 - Approaches to Learning: Items A–C
 - Social and Emotional Development: Items D–H
 - Physical Development and Health: Items I–K
 - Language, Literacy, and Communication: Items L–R

Week 2: Scoring Anecdotes & COR Advantage Items A–R (continued)

Practice

Scoring Video Clips

- Watch each of these video clips:
 - Aiden — child with plastic jar
 - Scout — child with pigtails wearing a yellow, flowered shirt
- For each video clip, write an objective anecdote based on your observation. You may watch the video clips as many times as needed.
- Then, use your anecdotes to determine the correct COR Advantage level for these items:
 - Aiden — Item B: Problem solving with materials
 - Scout — Item M: Listening and comprehension
- You may practice scoring as many times as needed.

Try It Out

Write Three Anecdotes for Items A–R

Your assignment has two parts:

- Using three children in your class, write three separate anecdotes and identify the corresponding COR Advantage item for each (choose only from items A–R). Put each anecdote in a separate post, and put the COR Advantage item at the top of your post. **DO NOT SCORE** your own anecdotes! These posts are **worth 10 points each and are due on Thursday**.
- Next, select two posts from other participants and score their anecdotes. *Please be sure to select posts that have not yet been scored.* Both of your replies are **worth 5 points each and are due the following Monday**.

Week 2: Scoring Anecdotes & COR Advantage Items A–R (continued)

Reminder: You are responsible for a total of 5 posts: 3 initial posts due by Thursday and 2 separate replies due by the following Monday.

Check My Understanding

COR Advantage Levels for Items A–R

You will need your copy of the *COR Advantage Scoring Guide* to complete this assignment.

For each question, carefully read the anecdote. Turn to the given COR Advantage item in your *COR Advantage Scoring Guide*. Choose the correct level for the anecdote, referring to the description and examples when necessary. **This assignment is worth 25 points (1 per question).**

Total points possible in Week 2 = 65.



Week 3: COR Advantage Items S–JJ

Objectives

Participants will be able to

- Identify the COR Advantage items S–JJ.
- Match anecdotes to appropriate COR Advantage items and levels.

Learning Unit Topics

- COR Advantage items and levels S–JJ

Reading Assignments

- Read through each item (S–JJ), development level, explanatory note, and sample anecdotes for the remaining COR categories. (See *COR Advantage Scoring Guide*.)
 - Mathematics: Items S–W
 - Creative Arts: Items X–AA

- Science and Technology: Items BB–EE
- Social Studies: Items FF–HH
- English Language Learning: Items II–JJ



Week 3: COR Advantage Items S–JJ (continued)

Practice

Scoring Video Clips

- Watch each of the following video clips:
 - Bing — child with dark hair wearing a blue shirt
 - Jayla — child not wearing a shirt
- For each, write an objective anecdote based on your observation. You may watch the video clips as many times as needed.
- Then, use your anecdotes to determine the correct COR Advantage level for these items:
 - Bing — Item U: Measurement
 - Jayla — Item CC: Experimenting, predicting, and drawing conclusions
- You may practice scoring as many times as needed.

Try It Out

Write Three Anecdotes for Items S–JJ

Your assignment has two parts:

- Using the children in your class, write three separate anecdotes and identify the corresponding COR Advantage item for each (choose only from items S–JJ). Put each anecdote in a separate post, and put the COR Advantage item at the top of your post. **DO NOT SCORE** your own anecdotes! These three posts are **worth 10 points each and are due on Thursday**.
- Next, select two posts from other participants and score their anecdotes. *Please be sure to select posts that have not yet been scored.* Both of your replies are **worth 5 points each and due the following Monday**.

Week 3: COR Advantage Items S–JJ (continued)

Reminder: You are responsible for a total of 5 posts: 3 initial posts due by Thursday and 2 separate replies due by the following Monday.

Check My Understanding

COR Advantage Levels for Items S–JJ

You will need your copy of the *COR Advantage Scoring Guide* to complete this assignment.

For each question, carefully read the anecdote. Turn to the given COR Advantage item in your *COR Advantage Scoring Guide*. Choose the correct level for the anecdote, referring to the description and examples when necessary. **This assignment is worth 25 points (1 per question).**

Total points possible in Week 3 = 65.



Week 4: Completing COR Advantage & Sharing Information With Families

Objectives

Participants will be able to

- Identify gaps in child assessment data and develop strategies to collect additional evidence for the associated COR Advantage categories and items.
- Discuss strategies for effectively engaging families in child assessment.

Learning Unit Topics

- Completing COR Advantage
- Sharing information with families

Reading Assignments

- “Family Conferences”

Share What You Learned

Sharing Family Conference Tips

- In separate posts, please share two tips for conducting family conferences. These two posts are **worth 10 points each and are due on Thursday.**
- Reply to two posts that someone else has posted. Your replies are **worth 5 points each and are due the following Monday.**

Reminder: You are responsible for a total of 4 posts: 2 initial posts due Thursday and 2 separate replies due the following Monday.

Week 4: Completing COR Advantage & Sharing Information With Families (continued)

Try It Out

Addressing Gaps in Data

Review the dashboard screenshot and think about how you could address the gaps in the data. Choose a COR Advantage item for each of the gap considerations. List at least two ideas for filling in the gap for the missing COR Advantage item you chose. This assignment is worth a total of 20 points: 1 point for identifying the COR Advantage item and 2 points for each idea for filling in the gap. Refer to Week 4 Learning Unit for examples of filling in the gaps. This assignment is **worth 20 points and is due Monday.**

Instructions: Save this file to your computer by clicking on “File,” select “Save As,” and name the file (e.g., “Wk2JaneDoe.PDF”). Complete the assignment, then click the “Save” button. (If you don’t, you will lose all your work!) To upload your

finished assignment, click on the Dropbox tab in your class, then click the text that says “Upload File.” Click “Browse” to select the file from your computer, then click “Submit.”

Share What You Learned

How Will COR Advantage Affect Your Work With Children?

You have now been introduced to COR Advantage! You have had practice writing objective anecdotes, worked with the items and levels, and have scored anecdotes. Please answer the following question:

- How will COR Advantage help you to both understand and meet the developmental needs of a child in your class?

Please include specific examples. This assignment is **worth 10 points and is due by Thursday.**

Week 4: Completing COR Advantage & Sharing Information With Families (continued)

Next, reply to posts from two other participants, addressing their specific examples. Your two replies are **worth 5 points each and are due the following Monday**. Check back later in the week to see what's been posted and scroll down to see other entries.

Reminder: You are responsible for a total of 3 posts: 1 initial post due Thursday and 2 separate replies due the following Monday.

Total points possible in Week 4 = 70.

Total points possible for the course = 245.

Points needed to pass the course = 196 (80% of points possible).

Course Evaluation

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey for this class.

Print Your Certificate

Once you have completed all of your assignments, your facilitator will enable you to print your certificate. Congratulations!

Click on the “Grades” tab along the top of the HighScope Learning Hub dashboard, then click on “My Certificates” in the left-hand sidebar.

Please print as many copies of your certificate as you need (i.e., one for your records, one for your employer).

For this course, your certificate will reflect that you have received 1.2 IACET CEUs which is the equivalent to 12 clock hours.

References

- Epstein, A. S., & Hohmann, M. (2012). *The HighScope preschool curriculum*. HighScope Press.
- How Does HighScope Assess Children? Adapted from Epstein, A. S. (2020). *Essentials of active learning in preschool* (2nd Ed., Revised). HighScope Press.
- Epstein, A. S., Marshall, B., & Gainsley, S. (2014). *COR Advantage 1.5: Scoring guide*. HighScope Press.
- Marrs, A., & Delgado, H. (2019, 25 March). *Data in, data out: What is high-quality documentation and why does it matter?* [Web log post].
- Family Conferences. Adapted from COR Advantage. (2018). *Family conferences* [Video webinar].