

Social-Emotional Growth Observation & Reflection Tool

This tool is designed for Montessori elementary teachers to track social-emotional learning (SEL) progress as a pathway to peace. It integrates observation, reflection, and student voice, drawing from Borich’s framework on learning environments and effective teaching practices.

1. Observation Checklist

Use during work cycles, group lessons, and transitions. Mark frequency and add notes.

Focus Area	Observed Behavior	Frequency (✓)	Notes
Conflict resolution (use of the peace corner, peer mediation)			
Emotional regulation (tone of voice, pause before reacting)			
Collaboration (group work, inclusivity, helping others)			
Communication (expressing needs, active listening)			
Self-awareness (naming emotions, journaling, self-correction)			

2. Teacher Reflection Prompts

After observations, take 5–10 minutes to reflect on how the classroom environment supported or hindered SEL growth.

What SEL strengths did I notice most often this week?

What challenges or repeated conflicts emerged?

How did the environment (space, routines, materials) influence these behaviors?

What adjustments might I make next week to support peace and SEL growth?

3. Student Voice Integration

Capture students' perspectives to track their self-awareness and sense of belonging to the community.

Student Quote / Reflection	Context (journal, conference, check-in)	Teacher Notes

Examples:

- "I took a deep breath before speaking in the circle."
- "I asked a friend to join our group when I saw they were alone."

4. Growth Over Time

This chart is designed for Montessori teachers to document SEL growth over time. Use it weekly or monthly to note patterns in self-regulation, empathy, and peaceful collaboration. Follow the instructions on the next page to complete the chart.

Date / Week	Self-Regulation (calming strategies, impulse control)	Empathy (noticing feelings, acts of kindness)	Peaceful Collaboration (conflict resolution, teamwork)	Teacher Notes / Patterns
[Date]/Week 1				
[Date]/Week 2				
Week 3				
Week 4				
Week 5				
Week 6				
Week 7				
Week 8				
Week 9				
Week 10				
Week 11				
Week 12				
Week 13				
Week 14				
Week 15				
Week 16				
Week 17				

Instructions for Teachers

1. Set SEL Indicators

Use three key dimensions of social-emotional growth:

- **Self-Regulation** – calming strategies, impulse control, pausing before reacting.
- **Empathy** – noticing others’ feelings, showing kindness, perspective-taking.
- **Peaceful Collaboration** – resolving conflicts, teamwork, and inclusive group work.

2. Use a Simple 1–4 Scale

When reviewing your weekly observations, assign a score for each SEL area:

Score	Description
1	Rarely observed
2	Occasionally observed
3	Frequently observed
4	Consistently observed, independent

3. Record Weekly Data

At the end of each week:

- Review observation notes and student voice.
- Enter one score (1–4) for each SEL dimension in the Excel tool.

4. Visualize Growth

[The Excel tool is set up so you can generate a line graph:](#)

- X-axis = Weeks
- Y-axis = SEL levels (1–4)
- Each line = one SEL dimension

This makes it easy to spot trends (e.g., steady growth in self-regulation, a sudden jump in empathy, or a plateau in collaboration).

5. Combine with Qualitative Notes

The graph shows patterns, but your reflection journals and student quotes provide context.

Example:

- *“Week 3: Empathy Rose—students began inviting others to join group work.”*