

Name _____ Date _____
Course _____ Experience # _____

THE OBSERVATION EXPERIENCE

OBJECTIVES:

- Discuss the meaning and value of observation as a way of studying child development.
- Report specific information about the observation setting.
- Report observation information without drawing conclusions.
- Report your own thoughts and feelings without observing.

SETTING:

Type of situation (care center, family day care home, nursery, preschool, kindergarten, Head Start, private home, other) _____

Other information _____

Number of children present _____ Number of adults _____

Names and ages of children observed:

1. _____ Age _____
2. _____ Age _____
3. _____ Age _____

Time of day _____

Task:

Observe a children's setting and respond to the following items.

Recording Observations

1. Describe the setting, the place in which you observed. *EXAMPLE: The family day care home was in a large brick home with a fenced backyard. The rooms were large and there was plenty of space for five children to play. The furnishings were clean. The room was bright and well lighted.*

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The Observation Experience

Obtaining Information

4. Observe one child. Answer the following questions:

Child's name _____ Age _____

How was the child dressed?

Did the clothes appear to help or hinder development? Why?

How did the child use his or her body during and activity?

How did the child express feelings? (about one situation)

What did the child do that showed curiosity or interest?

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Name _____ Date _____

The Observation Experience

Anecdotal Records (Word Pictures)

5. Observe one child in a specific activity for about three to five minutes. Describe, in detail, what happened.

Evaluating Yourself as an Observer

6. How did you feel while observing?

_____ Conspicuous _____ Apprehensive _____ Confident
_____ Comfortable _____ Frustrated _____ Adequately Prepared

7. Rate the observation experience by circling the number closest to your thinking

0 1 2 3 4 5

It was confusing. It was meaningful.

8. What would you do differently the next time you observe in a similar situation?