

Name _____ Date _____
Course _____ Experience # _____

UNDERSTANDING INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT

OBJECTIVES:

- Describe the process of intellectual development during the early years of childhood.
- Cite examples of how children solve problems in daily living.
- Discuss how intellectual development is stimulated during the preschool years.

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 _____

Name of child observed: _____ Age _____

Time of day _____

TASK:

Observe one child and respond to the items below.

Thinking

1. List four examples that indicated the child was thinking about what was going on.

a.

b.

c.

d.

Forming Ideas

2. What did the child do that reflects the ability to form concepts, or ideas, about the following?

a. Shape

Name _____ Date _____

b. Color

c. Size

d. Space

e. Weight

f. Numbers

g. Time

h. Seriation, or ordering

i. Classification, or grouping

j. Self-image

Learning through Play

3. Give two examples of what the child appeared to have learned during play.

a.

b.

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Problem Solving

4. How did each interest area in the room contribute to the child’s ability to solve problems? (Notice the example on Chart 13-A.)

Chart 13-A
SOLVING PROBLEMS IN INTEREST AREAS

Interest Area	Problem	What Happened?
<p><i>Example:</i> <i>Science area</i></p>	<p><i>How to get the fish food in the can behind the fish tank.</i></p>	<p><i>John moved away objects on the wide (24”) window sill next to the fish tank. He boosted himself up so that he balanced himself with his tummy on the edge of the sill while reaching behind the tank for the can of fish food. After feeding the fish, he returned the can in the same manner. Then he replaced objects next to the tank. Storing the can behind the tank provided a problem-solving situation.</i></p>

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Chart 13-A

SOLVING PROBLEMS IN INTEREST AREAS Continued

Interest Area	Problem	What Happened?

Name _____ Date _____

Trial and Error

5. Describe two examples of how the child solved a problem by trial and error.

EXAMPLE: Sally manipulated the cubes with her hands until they fit into the slots of the corresponding sizes.

a.

b.

Active Learning

6. Give three examples of how the child used his or her body while solving a problem.

EXAMPLE: The child's mouth opened wide when trying to put an object, by hand, into a small opening in a box.

a.

b.

c.

EVALUATION

1. *Development is sequential.*

Describe two activities that are examples of how learning takes place in a step-by-step process.

a.

b.

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2. *Learning progresses from simple to complex levels.*

Describe how children begin to formulate concepts at a very simple level of learning with real objects and gradually progress to more difficult levels of abstract thinking.

3. Promoting intellectual development.

As a result of your involvement with children, recommend four ways to promote intellectual development during the preschool years.

a.

b.

c.

d.