

Fullerton College/CDES Department
122 Principles of Early Childhood Education
Observation Assignment
(Two Observations - 25 points each)

Purpose:

- To provide an opportunity to practice developing skills in the following observational strategies: anecdotal records, time sampling, event sampling, running record, incidents reports, or checklists.
- To determine when to use each of the observational strategies to find answers to questions regarding an individual child and/or a group of children, the classroom environment, the effectiveness of the curriculum, and the effectiveness of the teacher's interactions with the children.
- To have an opportunity to observe children, teachers, and the environment in the

Fullerton College Lab School - 1830 and 1820 buildings (see map).

Requirements:

1. You are required to complete **two** observations during the semester.
2. **You are required to arrange two observation times** at the Fullerton College Child Development Center's Lab School Classroom. It is located in room 1830 at the northeast corner of the campus (at the bend of Berkeley Ave.). **Dr. Tom Chiaromonte** is the Director and **Jennifer Pearson** is the Assistant who will schedule your observation times. **Room 1820 Teachers:** Pam Bonneville, Wendy Castro, and Erin Gehr. **Room 1830 Teachers:** Joke Koo, Paula Cole and Paulette MacGill [Paulette will be retiring in October and Veronica Hernandez will be taking her place]
3. **Call 714-992-7069** to schedule a time for the observation. The Center is open Monday - Friday from 7am-6pm; however, children nap during mid-day and they begin leaving the program at 4pm. **PLAN AHEAD!** Approximately three observation slots are open on any given time period and many classes use the Lab School for observations.
4. **YOU NEED TO SIGN IN AND SIGN OUT WHEN YOU OBSERVE.** Sign in on the visitor clipboard outside Jennifer Pearson's office in the 1830 building and pick up a visitor badge before starting your observation.
5. **You need to go in prepared.** Leave your backpacks, and personal items in the trunk of your car. Have a notepad and/or clipboard to write on. Take the observation sheets, note pad, and writing utensils. **Do not** ask the staff for supplies and/or clarification of your assignment. **Do not** chew gum, drink and/or eat while observing. **Do not interfere** with the interactions of the children. **You are there to Observe!**
6. The observations need to be **typed & thoroughly documented** with a **cover page** (see **evaluation** form attached for criteria used to determine the grade).

It is critical that you document needed information in **as much detail as possible** and address the questions thoroughly. **You will be graded on critical thinking, being objective in your documentation, and applying information** (how would you use the information gained from the observation).

****Keep your focus on:** (1) **understanding** the observational strategy, and (2) developing your skills in **objective** recording.

7. **Assignments will be accepted one week late** (points will automatically be deducted for all late papers. A project is considered late at the end of the day it is due).
8. **The Instructor needs a Hard Copy of All Assignments. You need to be sure you have the title page, the written format, the raw data sheets, and the receipt of submission to turnitin.com** (Options: Assignments need to be turned in during class (recommended), delivered to my office or campus mail room, or postmarked the day they are due to be accepted).
9. **ALL ASSIGNMENTS must be submitted to Turnitin.com (Must attach a receipt of submission to your paper you are turning in to class). In one document, include the title page and the written portion of the observation to submit to turnitin.com.**
10. **Observation #1 Due:** October 20 & 21, 2009
Observation #2 Due: November 10 & 11, 2009

Observation Protocol: Be sure to use observation protocol when you are in the classrooms.

- silently acknowledge the teacher and/or aide in the classroom
- quietly find a space that is out of the way.
- be prepared before entering classroom to begin your recording with writing utensil out, notepad and observation sheet ready.
- be unobtrusive.
- avoid standing in a group if there is more observer while you are there. Actually try to sit.
- avoid being too close to what you are observing and becoming a part of the observation. This requires you to have undivided focus.
- you are to observe - not interact with the children.
- avoid distracting the children ; however, if they try to make contact, smile and acknowledge them.
- if a child asks you to help him/her, let him/her know that you are working and if they need help they can ask another child or the teacher.

Off-Campus Observation:

If there is no way for you to arrange observations at the Fullerton College Child Development Center, you may arrange ahead of time with a **quality, licensed** center. Look for NAEYC Accredited Centers or observe a Mentor Teacher in your area.

You can check the Orange County AEYC (www.ocae.org), the California AEYC (www.caeyc.org) or the National AEYC (www.naeyc.org) websites for the NAEYC Accredited Centers.

You are NOT to complete the observation in your own classroom.

You are required to attach the Off-Site Observation Verification Form completely filled out, along with the Center's brochure for observations outside the Fullerton College Lab School.

Observational Strategy Choices

The Observational Strategies are identified below along with the criteria for the written format to turn in. *Each requires a minimum of 30-45 minutes of observation. Always turn in a Cover Page. If you are observing off-site you need a cover page, Center brochure, and off-site observation form for each observation.

Additional copies of the observations are on the instructor's website under Text Support.

Observation #1: Anecdotal Records

1a. *Practicing Keeping Anecdotal Records on Five Children*

Observation Time: Schedule at the beginning of Open Choice (indoors or outdoors)

Focus: Each child's verbal and nonverbal communication with other children and/or teachers. Make note of what kind of response the child receives when he or she communicates.

a. **Collect the raw data** (observational notes).

b. **Written format:**

1. **Expand & type your notes** using "full, complete sentences & paragraphs" on the observation forms. **Remember to be an objective reporter of what you see.**
2. **Compare the differences and similarities** recorded between each of the five children.
3. **Describe how the anecdotal record**, as a strategy, will help you in working with these children.
4. **Turn in the raw data** with your observation.

OR

1b. *Developmental Tasks as the Curriculum: How to Support Children at Each Stage.*

Observation Time: Schedule at the beginning of Open Choice (indoors or outdoors)

Focus: Choose **one child** and write down whatever you see in the areas of physical, social-emotional or cognitive skills that the child displayed.

a. **Collect the raw data** (observational notes).

b. **Written format:**

1. **Expand & type your notes** using "full, complete sentences & paragraphs" on the observation forms.
2. **Type the information** gathered for **page 33** of the observation form.
3. **Turn in the raw data** with your observation.

Observation #2: Running Record

2a. *Observe the Effects of the Social-Emotional Environment on a Child*

Observation Time: Schedule at the beginning of Open Choice (indoors or outdoors)
Record the time in 10-minute intervals.

Focus: Observe the effects of the social-emotional environment on **one child**.

a. **Collect the raw data** (observational notes).

b. **Written format:** (All must be typed)

1. **Type your notes** on the running record.

2. **Study your Running Record observation** and see if you can discover the effects on the child of the social-emotional environment. **Type the information** you collected for **page 29** of the observation form.

OR

2b. *Observing an Adult Supervising A Group of Young Children*

Observation Time: Schedule at the beginning of Open Choice (indoors or outdoors)

Focus: Select **one teacher** to observe (not a student teacher). Write a running record of exactly what you see while watching the teacher supervising young children. Keep in mind everything we have been discussing in class regarding the teacher's role and importance of modeling and providing a quality and safe environment.

a. **Collect the raw data** (observational notes).

b. **Written format:** (All must be typed)

1. **Type your expanded notes** on the running record using "full, complete sentences & paragraphs" on the observation forms.

2. **Describe in detail** what you learned as well as the information collected for **page 10** of the observation form.

A Day in the Fullerton College Lab School

Morning Arrival: 7:30-9:00am

The day begins as parents and children arrive. Children will assist with the morning set-up of our outdoor environment and watering the gardens. After setting up, the children will gather inside, wash hands, and help to get the tables ready for breakfast.

Morning Meeting: 9:00-9:30am

After breakfast, we will gather in the book area for story-time, songs, daily morning discussion, and introducing new possibilities for the day. The children will split up indoors/outdoors according to their plans and interests.

Work Time: 9:30-11:30am

After reflecting on the previous day and discussing any planned possibilities, the children will be able to begin the day's explorations in the following areas:

- Creative Arts
- Imagine Place
- Shadow Play
- Writing Center
- Science Area
- Table Choices
- Sand Area
- Woodworking/Building Area
- Gardening
- Visiting and Working in the *Resource Rooms*

Luncheon and Rest Time: 11:30-3:00pm

The children will wash their hands, listen to story plays or stories before they make their beds. They will assist in setting the table and enjoy a family style luncheon. The children will wash their hands when done, rest or participate in quiet activities.

Afternoon Reflection: 3:00-6:00pm

The children will be served a small snack after they get up from resting. They will have opportunities to reflect on and discuss their morning activities. Together with the teacher, they will be able to arrange any planned possibilities. The rest of the afternoon will be dedicated to exploring the indoor/outdoor environment.

Fullerton College/CDES Department
122 Principles of Early Childhood Education
Outside Observation Assignment

Dear Director,

Students in my 122 Principles of Early Childhood Education course at Fullerton College are required to complete two observations throughout the semester. Each observation is a minimum of 30 minutes in duration.

Purpose of the Assignment:

- To provide an opportunity to practice developing skills in the following observational strategies: anecdotal records, time sampling, event sampling, running record, incidents report, or checklists.
- To determine when to use each of the observational strategies to find answers to questions regarding an individual child and/or a group of children, the classroom environment, the effectiveness of the curriculum, and the effectiveness of the teacher's interactions with the children.

The intent was to have them schedule the observations at the Fullerton College Child Development Lab School, This may not be possible for some students to schedule a time at our site. In this case, students are given an opportunity to observe in a quality, licensed (preferably NAEYC Accredited Center).

Students are required to have the Center Director fill out this form, as well as a copy of the Center brochure to be turned in with the observation.

Thank you in advance for supporting the students' growth and understanding of the complexities of becoming a teacher. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 714-992-7500.

In Friendship & Peace,

Chris Lamm, Instructor

* The student is **not** to complete the observation in a classroom in which they are the teacher, assistant teacher, and/or teacher aide.

Off-Campus Observation Verification

Filled out by student:

Student Observer: _____
Date of Observation: _____
Type of Observation: _____

Filled out by the Center Director:

Name of the Center: _____
Center Address: _____
Center Phone Number: _____

NAEYC Accredited yes: _____ no: _____

Classroom Observation:

_____ Ages of Children:
_____ Number of Children Enrolled in Class

Center Director's Signature

Date

Fullerton College/CDES Dept.
122 Principles of Early Childhood Education
Observation Assignment
Observation # ___/Observation Strategy___

Instructor Evaluation

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

1. _____ Cover Page
 - a. Your Name
 - b. Visitation Site
 - c. Type of Observation & Number
 - d. Course title: 122 Principles of Early Childhood Education
2. _____ On Campus: Called and made an appointment to the Lab School
3. _____ Off-Site: Completed form.
 - a. Called and made an appointment
 - b. _____ attached brochure, etc.
 - c. _____ NAEYC Accredited
4. _____ **Submit a hard copy to your instructor** including the raw data on due date. Attach a receipt from turnitin.com.
5. _____ **Submit your Observation to Turnitin.com,**

Comments: