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 Veronica Hernandez.

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. There are also many student teachers this semester scheduled for Monday and Wednesday.

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 used 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 the campus mail room (staff will time stamp paper), or postmarked the day they are due to be accepted.

9. **ALL ASSIGNMENTS must be submitted to Turnitin.com.** (Attach a receipt of submission to your paper you are turning in to class). **Submit Paper in ONE Document**, include the **title page and the written portion of the observation** to submit to turnitin.com.

10. **Observation #1 Due:** April 12, 2010  
**Observation #2 Due:** May 3, 2010  

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**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.ocaey.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 completed format to turn in.

You will select ONE observational strategy for each observation assignment (#1 a or #1b) and (#2a or #2b).

*Each Observation requires approximately 60 minutes of observation time.* This does not include checking in and setting up your observation strategy.

Always turn in a Cover Page with each Observation:

- a. Your Name
- b. Visitation Site (FC Lab School or Name Off-site Location)
- c. Type of Observational Strategy & Number/Letter (i.e. 1a or 1b)
- d. Course title: 122 Principles of Early Childhood Education

If you are observing off-site you also need the Center brochure, and off-site observation form filled out by you and signed by the director for each observation.

Additional copies of the observations are on the instructor's website or you can make copies from the Resource for Observation & Reflection (under this class) in the Library on Two-hour reserve.
Observation #1

[Choose 1a or 1b: Due: April 12, 2010]

Anecdotal Records Or Environmental Checklist

1a. Practicing Keeping Anecdotal Records on Five Children

Observation Time: Schedule at the beginning of Open Choice (indoors or outdoors). Identify the five children before beginning the observation. Observe each child for approximately 10 minutes (total observation approx. 50 min.).

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. [Chapters 2 & 3 of the text will provide support].

a. Collect the raw data (observational notes).

b. Completed format:
   1. Expand & Type your notes using "full, complete sentences & paragraphs" 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 the hard copy of your observation.
   5. Submit in ONE document to turnitin.com: cover page & #1-3.

OR

1b. Environmental Checklist Showing Five Children at Play

Observation Time: Schedule at the beginning of Open Choice (indoors or outdoors). Minimum of 50 minutes for observing after the form is set-up.

Focus: Observing how five children in a play-based program use environment for play. (Keeping track of where these children are periodically you may see some patterns of individual or group behavior). [A sample of this observation is in Chapter 12, p. 350 of the text, as well as Chapter 4 regarding play].

a. Set-up for Environmental Checklist and Collect the raw data
   (observational notes).

b. Completed Format:
   1. Analyze your raw data from checklist & observational notes. Type up this information using full, complete sentences & paragraphs. Remember to be an objective reporter of what you see.
   2. Write what you discovered by doing this activity.
   3. Turn in the raw data with the hard copy of your observation.
   4. Submit in ONE document to turnitin.com: cover page & #1-2).
Observation #2
[Choose 2a or 2b: Due: May 3, 2010]

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 for 50-60 minutes.
Focus: Observe the effects of the social-emotional environment on one child.

a. **Collect the raw data** (observational notes). Be sure to separate what is actually seen and the meaning of observed behaviors.

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

1. **Type your notes** from the running record using “full, complete sentences & paragraphs”. Remember to be an objective reporter of what you see. Be sure to separate what is actually seen and the meaning of observed behaviors.

2. **Type the information** you collected for page 29 of the observation form. Study your Running Record observation and see if you can discover the effects on the child of the social-emotional environment as described in Chapter 9.

3. **Turn in the raw data** with the hard copy of your observation.

4. **Submit in ONE document to turnitin.com:** cover page & #1-2.

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. It needs to be a teacher identified on the first page of the observation assignment). 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). Be detailed.

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

1. **Type your expanded notes** on the running record using "full, complete sentences & paragraphs”. Remember to be an objective reporter of what you see.

2. **Describe in detail** what you learned from this observation. Be sure to separate what is actually seen and the meaning of observed behaviors, as well as the information collected for page 10 of the observation form (identified below).

   · Did you see the adult interacting with an individual or small group giving close personal attention while also watching the other children as described in Chapter 2? If yes, describe. If no, explain why you think the person you observed didn’t do both.

   · Did you learn something about the positioning of adults for safe supervision? Describe!

   · What did you get out of doing this observation?

3. **Turn in the raw data** with the hard copy of your observation.

4. **Submit in ONE document to turnitin.com:** cover page & #1-2.
A Day in the Lab School

**Morning Arrival 7:30-9:25 AM**
The day begins as parents and children arrive. About 8 a.m. children and students will assist with the morning set-up of our outdoor environment, watering the gardens and engagement in outdoor experiences. College students can help set up paint, puppets, rake sand and prep area with pulleys, loose parts, set up for work in gardens. After morning outdoor experiences the children will gather inside, wash hands, and help set the tables for breakfast. Children will enjoy a nutritious breakfast.

**Morning Musical Gathering 9:25 - 9:50 AM**
Gathering in the Art/Music Studio for a “Community Sing”.

**Morning Meetings and Work Time 9:50 -11:45 AM**
Daily morning discussions and introduction of new possibilities for the day will be discussed in morning meetings. After reflecting on the previous day and discussing any planned possibilities, the children will be able to begin the day’s explorations. Small group investigations will also be a part of this time.

**Exploration and Play Experiences:**
- Art
- Art/Music Studio
- Movement and Dance
- Science and Math Resource Room
- Imagine Place
- Shadow Play
- Writing Center
- Science Area
- Table Choices
- Sand Area with River Rain experiences
- Woodworking/Building Area
- Gardening
- Stream Bed and Water Pump Play Site

**Class Meetings after Community Sing**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children from Lab School classroom one – Art &amp; Music Studio</th>
<th>(4 Student Teachers)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children from Lab School classroom one - Outdoor Experiences</td>
<td>(1 student Teacher)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children from Lab School classroom two - Science and Math Resource Room</td>
<td>(3 Students)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children from Lab School classroom two - Outdoor Experiences</td>
<td>(1 Student Teacher)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Luncheon and Rest Time 11:45 -3:00 PM**
The children will wash their hands, assist in setting the table and enjoy a family style meal together. The children will wash their hands when done, and then they can listen to story plays or stories before resting or participate in quiet activities.

**Afternoon Reflection/Small Group Investigations and Nature Play 3:00-6:00 PM**
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 small group investigations, planned possibilities, experiences building upon previous processes, and or cooking. Large Motor outdoor activities will occur about 3:30 p.m. The rest of the afternoon will be dedicated to exploring the indoor/outdoor natural environment.
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 approximately 60 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 obtain 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 quality educator. 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.

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**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**
1. _____ Cover Page
   e. Your Name
   f. Visitation Site (FC Lab School or Name of Off-site Location)
   g. Type of Observational Strategy & Number/Letter
   h. 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 with director signature & dated
   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, excluding the raw data in ONE Document to Turnitin.com,

Comments: