

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 and running records.
- To determine when to use which observational strategy 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 Lab School.

Fullerton College Lab School - 1820 and 1830 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:** Karin Pavelek, 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 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 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:** March 21
Observation #2 Due: April 25

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.oaeyc.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:

Observation #1: Choose one of the following:

1a: Anecdotal Record on Five Children - focus on verbal and non-verbal communication.

or

1b: Observing an Adult Supervising a Group of Young Children during Open Choice

Observation #2: Choose one of the following:

2a: Observe the Effects of the Social-Emotional Environment on One Child

or

2b: Observe How Two Children Explore Play and Work

***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.

Do Not Forget! 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.

• **Check your % score. If it is over 25%, revise before submitting.**

Reminder: The hard copy submitted in class with the "raw data" included is what is graded; however, the observation will not be read without submitting it to turnitin.com. Again, plan ahead and turn all assignment in on time. One letter grade will be deducted for late papers.

Observation 1a

Providing for the Child's Emotional Growth & Well-Being Through Communication

Activity: Practicing keeping anecdotal records on **five children**.

Focus: The focus is on each child's verbal and nonverbal communication with other children and/or teachers. Also, make note of what kind of response the child received when he or she communicates. Document quotes as much as possible.

Directions:

1. Schedule your observation during open choice (either indoors or outdoors).
2. Select five children to observe before beginning the observation.
3. Observe the children for approximately 10 minutes each. The observation is a 60 minute observation.
4. For each child document:
 - a. Name & Approximate age
 - b. Date & Time
 - c. Setting & Circumstances
 - d. Narrative account of what you saw
 - Be objective in your recording
 - Use quotes as much as possible
 - Be descriptive. Provide detail. Paint a picture.
 - The narrative account is your "raw data".
5. Chapters 2 & 3 of the text will provide support.

Completed Format:

1. Cover Page
2. Expand & Type your notes ("raw data") using full, complete sentences and paragraphs. Remember to be an objective reporter of what you see.
3. Compare the differences and similarities recorded between each of the five children.
4. Describe what you learned from this observation.
5. Describe how the anecdotal record, as a strategy, will help you in your work with children.
6. Turn in the "raw data" with the hard copy of your observation.
7. Submit in ONE document to turnitin.com: #1-5 from the "completed format" list.

Observation 1b

Importance of the Role of the Teacher as Model

Activity: Observing an adult supervising a group of young children during open choice by using a Running Record.

Focus: Focusing on effective teaching techniques both subtle and overt while interacting with an individual child and a group of children. This observation needs to take place during an open choice time either indoors or outdoors. Listen to the language the teacher uses as well as other strategies or guidance techniques.

Directions:

1. Schedule your observation during open choice (either indoors or outdoors).
2. Choose one teacher: Room 1820 (Pam, Wendy or Erin) or Room 1830 (Karin, Veronica, or Paula).
3. Observe the teacher for 60 minutes.
4. Document:
 - a. Identify teacher by name
 - b. Date & Time
 - c. Setting & Circumstances
 - d. Narrative account of what you saw
 - Be objective in your recording
 - Use quotes as much as possible
 - The narrative account is your "raw data".
5. Chapters 2, 3, 5, & 6 of the text will provide support.

Completed Format:

1. Cover Page
2. **Expand & Type your notes** ("raw data") using full, complete sentences and paragraphs. Remember to be an objective reporter of what you see.
3. **Describe in detail** what you learned from this observation.
 - communication skills • guidance techniques • empowering children
 - child-centered approach • personal relationships • etc.
4. **Describe** how this type of running record, as a strategy, will help you in your work with children.
5. Turn in the "raw data" with the hard copy of your observation
6. Submit in ONE document to turnitin.com: #1-4 from the "completed format" list.

Observation 2a

Creating a Social-Emotional Environment

Activity: Observe the effects of the social-emotional environment on **one child** using the Running Record Observation. This is during an Open Choice period. Record in 10-minute intervals for 60 minutes.

Focus: Observe one child focusing on the social-emotional environment and see if you can discover the effects on the child of the social-emotional environment as described in Chapter 9.

Directions:

1. Schedule your observation during open choice (either indoors or outdoors).
2. Select one child.
3. Observe the child for 60 minutes collecting your "raw data" in 10-minute intervals. Record the time for each interval, describe what is actually seen, and interpret the meaning of the observed behaviors. [Create three columns]

Time	What is actually seen	Meaning of the observed behaviors
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4. Document:
 - a. Identify the child
 - b. Date & Time
 - c. Setting & Circumstances
 - d. Narrative account of what you saw
 - Be objective in your recording
 - You have the opportunity to interpret what you saw in column three.
 - The narrative account is your "raw data".
5. Chapters 9 of the text will provide support.

Completed Format:

1. Cover Page
2. **Expand & Type your notes** ("raw data") using full, complete sentences and 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.*
3. **Describe in detail** what you learned from this observation.
4. **Describe** how this type of running record, as a strategy, will help you in your work with children.
5. Turn in the "raw data" with the hard copy of your observation
6. Submit in ONE document to turnitin.com: #1-4 from the "completed format" list.

Observation 2b

Facilitating Young Children's Play and Work

Activity: Practicing keeping anecdotal records on **two children** looking at their play and work.

Focus: The focus is on how children engage in play and work by observing two children (one boy and one girl) as they interact during an Open Choice period.

Directions:

1. Schedule your observation during open choice (either indoors or outdoors).
2. Select two children (one boy and one girl) to observe before beginning the observation.
3. Observe each child for approximately 30 minutes. The observation is a 60 minute observation.
4. For each child document:
 - a. Name & Approximate age
 - b. Date & Time
 - c. Setting & Circumstances
 - d. Narrative account of what you saw
 - Be objective in your recording
 - Use quotes as much as possible
 - Be descriptive in how they play and work. Paint a picture!
 - The narrative account is your "raw data".
5. Chapter 4 of the text will provide support.

Completed Format:

1. Cover Page
2. Expand & Type your notes ("raw data") using full, complete sentences and paragraphs. Remember to be an objective reporter of what you see.
3. Compare the differences and similarities recorded between the two children.
4. Describe what you learned from this observation.
5. Describe how this type of anecdotal record, as a strategy, will help you in your work with children.
6. Turn in the "raw data" with the hard copy of your observation.
7. Submit in ONE document to turnitin.com: #1-5 from the "completed format" list.

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

Children from Lab School classroom one – Art & Music Studio
Children from Lab School classroom one - Outdoor Experiences
Children from Lab School classroom two - Science and Math Resource Room
Children from Lab School classroom two - Outdoor Experiences

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.

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 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.

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 # ____ (#1 or #2) /Observation Strategy ____ (a or b)

Instructor Evaluation

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

1. _____ Cover Page
 - a. _____ Your Name
 - b. _____ Visitation Site (FC Lab School or Name of Off-site Location)
 - c. _____ Type of Observational Strategy & Number/Letter
 - 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 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: