

Fullerton College/CDES Department
122 Principles of Early Childhood Education
Observation Assignment - 25 points

Purpose:

- To have an opportunity to observe children, teachers, and the environment in the Lab School.
- To provide an opportunity to practice developing your observation skills using the **Running Record observational strategy**.
- To have an opportunity to practice objective recording of what children are doing (actions, as well as, language).

Requirements:

1. You are required to complete **one running record observation** during the semester at the FC CDES Department Laboratory School. (NE corner of campus - see campus map)
2. **Write-up:**
 - a. The observations need to be **typed & thoroughly documented** with a cover page (see **evaluation** form attached for criteria used to determine the grade).
 - b. **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.**
3. 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 (the documentation you did on site), 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).
4. **Turnitin.com:** All observations (minus the raw data) will be submitted to turnitin.com as well.
 - **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 to turnitin.com**, include the title page and the written portion of the observation.
 - The turnitin.com directions with class ID and password will be in a class handout.
5. **Observation Due: On or Before May 6, 2013**
6. **No late papers will be accepted.**

General Information:

1. The CDES Lab School is located in the 1830 & 1820 buildings at the northeast corner of the campus (at the bend of Berkeley Ave.). To make an appointment call Jennifer at 714-992-7069.
2. **Dr. Tom Chiaromonte** is the Director and **Jennifer Pearson** is the Assistant.
Room 1820 Teachers: Pam Bonneville, Wendy Castro, and Erin Gehr
Room 1830 Teachers: Karin Pavelek, Veronica Hernandez, and Paula Cole

General Observation Protocol: Be sure to use observation protocol when you are observing at the Lab School.

- 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 are more observers 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.

The Observations this Semester will be using various Observational Strategies.:

A Running Record Observation: A method of documenting that gives a blow-by-blow, objective, written description of what is happening while it is happening. The goal of a running record is to capture all the behavior as it occurs. The ideal is to write the observation with such detail and description that someone reading it would "see" just what the observer saw. The problem is getting everything down. It takes skill to write a good running record. You can't write whole and complete sentences during the observation or the action is over before you've got it recorded. You're still looking at your paper when the child has gone on to something else. Quick brief notes are the answer to the problem. But they need to be written up right away after the end of the observing period. [Taken from p.340-341 of the text].

Observation Focus and Directions:

1. **Focus:** Practicing a Running Record Observing Four Children
2. **On-Site Observation:**
 - a. Choose four children to observe in depth. Observe one child at a time for 10-15 minutes each. The children need to be playing in different areas.
 - b. **Write down everything** the child is doing and saying in descriptive detail. **Be objective.** Avoid assumptions. Only write down what you see or hear. Identify what area the observation is taking place, who is in the area, who is interacting with them (children and/or teachers - describe/name them). This is your "raw data".
 - c. **Write-up:** Reviewing your raw data, type up your findings, adding additional detail beyond your raw data. Use quotes when applicable. Needs to demonstrate in-depth, descriptive detail.
 - d. **Closing:** Looking at the running record on all four children, discuss what you learned from this experience.

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122 Principles of Early Childhood Education
Observation
Instructor Evaluation

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

1. _____ Cover Page
 - a. Your Name
 - b. Observation Option
 - c. Course title: 122 Principles of Early Childhood Education
 - d. Instructor: Chris Lamm
2. _____ **Submit a hard copy to your instructor** including the cover page & "raw data" on due date.
3. _____ **Submit your Observation, excluding the "raw data" in ONE Document to Turnitin.com,**

Comments: