



CCEI1220P1: Informal Assessment: Observations: A Practical Application Course Handout

Welcome to CCEI1220P1

In this practical application course, participants will observe a child in the classroom setting and create a brief narrative summary. Successful completion of the observation activities and short-answer essays is required.

Objectives:

By reviewing the information in this course, completing the observations, and successfully responding to assessment questions, participants will meet the following objectives:

- Conduct an observation of an infant or toddler
- Conduct an observation of a preschooler
- Create a narrative summary of an observation

References:

- Morrison, George S. *Fundamentals of Early Childhood Education*, 2013. Pearson Education, Inc., Upper Saddle River, NJ.
- Snow, Catherine E. *Early Childhood Assessment: Why, What, and How*, 2008. The National Academies Press, Washington, D.C.
- Herr, J. *Working with Young Children. 8th Edition*, 2012. Goodheart-Wilcox Company.
- Decker, Celia. *Planning and Administering Early Childhood Programs*, 10th Edition (2012). Merrill Publishing. Columbus, OH.
- Reno, Hilde. *Handbook for Early Childhood Administrators*, 2008. Pearson Education, Inc., Upper Saddle River, NJ.
- NAEYC position statement: "Early Childhood Curriculum, Assessment, and Program Evaluation" (2003)
- Pennsylvania BUILD Initiative: Early Childhood Assessment for Children from Birth to Age 8. Pennsylvania Departments of Education and Public Welfare, Harrisburg, PA.
- *A Guide to Assessment in Early Childhood* (2008). A collaborative publication by the Washington State Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction and numerous partner agencies and organizations.
- *Improving Child-Level Assessments in Early Childhood Education Settings* (2013). Forum on Children and Families.
http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/scmsAdmin/media/users/lec321/ForumBrief_FINAL_2.15.13.pdf
- *Authentic Assessment and Early Childhood Education - an Update and Resources*. (2012). Illinois State Board of Education.
http://ec.thecenterweb.org/sites/ec.thecenterweb.org/files/uploads/lp_spring-12_1-6_Ir.pdf

Use the space below to record notes from the course.

Observation as a Form of Assessment

You can combine systematic observations with other assessment methods to paint a complete picture for families and other staff members to understand:

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You will want to observe and record how children's behaviors reflect their progress in each developmental domain. Observe how children:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

6.

7.

8.

Additional Notes:

Observation Activities

It is time for the observation portion of the course. Follow the directions for each of the observation activities below. Draft your answers in the space provided, on a separate sheet of paper, or on a personal computer. Then, log back into the course, click "Submit Answers," and submit your final answer for each activity. You will receive feedback from a CCEI Education Coach within two business days.

Activity 1:

Select an infant or toddler that you can observe. Observe the child for five minutes over three successive days. Take notes as you observe: What activity is the child involved in? Is the child highly engaged and interested in what s/he is doing? Is the child interacting with others? Share your observations regarding what is occurring. What behavioral changes do you notice during the observation time? Remember to use an objective viewpoint for each entry and avoid interpreting or speculating on why things occurred. (Use a separate sheet of paper for observation notes during the three observation periods.)

Essay 1: Using your notes from your infant/toddler observations, write a brief summary of those observations and describe the importance of what you have learned.

Activity 2:

Select a preschool-age child that you can observe. Observe the child for five minutes over three successive days. What activity is the child involved in? Is the child highly engaged and interested in what s/he is doing? Is the child interacting with others? Share your observations regarding what is occurring. What behavioral changes do you notice during the observation time? Remember to use an objective viewpoint for each entry and avoid interpreting or speculating on why things occurred. (Use a separate sheet of paper for observation notes during the three observation periods.)

Essay 2: Using your notes from your preschool observations, write a brief summary of those observations and describe the importance of what you have learned.

When you have completed the exercises on this handout, you can log back into the course and submit your final written answers for review.