

Date:

Entry #

Daily Observation Records

Personal Observation

Describe something that you saw today, something that intrigued you or you were curious about.

Look!

Focused Observation

Today, look for two examples of **solitary play**. Describe, in detail, what the child is playing with and how the child is using it. How long do they spend with the material? How are they using their fine motor skills?

Take a

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Today, look for two examples of **parallel play**. Describe, in detail, what the children are playing with. What is similar about how each child is using the material? What is different about how each child is using the material? In parallel play experiences, children are playing side-by-side. They could be using the same materials but are not interacting with each other.

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Today, look for two examples of **associative group play**. Describe, in detail, what is happening. Remember that in associative play, children will begin to play together, but they are not focused towards a common goal. A child will be more interested in playing with other children around them than the individual toys they play with. Children may continue to play separately from one another, but they start to become more involved in what others around them are doing. If you are in an infant room, describe two examples of **onlooker play**. What is the infant watching?

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If you are in a preschool classroom, look for one example of **cooperative play today**. Describe, in detail, what is happening. Include some dialogue of what the children are saying. Is a leader emerging? Cooperative play is organized and there are common goals and teamwork happening. If you are in an infant or toddler classroom, look for another example of solitary or parallel play and describe it in detail.

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Today, describe an example of a child engaged in **functional play**. This is repeated practice of skills through interactions with objects or people. Functional play involves the repetition and practice of skills without a specific product or purpose in mind.

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Find two examples of a child using **symbolic** play. In this type of play, the child uses one object to represent another object. For example, a child might use a banana as a telephone. If you are in an infant room, look for two instances where a child would be involved in simple dramatic play with props.

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Look for **sand play** (or sand alternatives) today either inside or outside. Identify one of the four stages of sand play (functional with senses, functional with tools, symbolic, representational) and describe what the child is doing. Refer to page 89 of your "Creating Effective Learning Environments" textbook for a refresher on the stages.

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Watch a child engaging in a **drawing** experience. These are emergent writing skills. Describe what the child is drawing. How is the child holding the writing tool? Where is the child placing the markings? Is the child using different colours? How long does the child spend with this experience?

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Today, focus on manipulative experiences that use the **fine motor muscles**. What material is the child using? What kind of grip do you see (palmer, pincer, modified pincer, whole hand grasp, tripod). What do you notice about hand-eye coordination? Describe any problem-solving skills that the child used.

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Give two examples of a child using expressive language (expressing self by speaking, demonstrating, pointing, crying, etc.). What message is the child expressing. Dictate the words being used. If the child is non-verbal, identify the cues that the child uses to communicate the message.

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