

ECE 110

### Observation Summary Paper

Harris's observation takes place in his daycare center. There are grey mats on the floor over by the wooden blocks, that also share a space different wooden transportation toys, some made of plastic, there is also a play table in this part of the room. It has two trays on it, one blue one red. Across from the wooden toys there is a long wooden picnic table, a semi-circle seesaw adjacent to the table, behind the there is a green water hose, and cubbies with rain boots and some toys. There is a water table by the picnic table with multiple plastic cups and containers. Next to the water table there is yet another brown small picnic table with a large rectangular container on top of it. There is a roof covering this part of the facility, a few steps from the tables there is no covering, this is where the play-set is surrounded by sand, and a storage shack next to it, there is fencing around the facility. Towards the back of the shack we find another picnic table and child shopping carts, as well as different size stumps in a medium circle, next to the stumps is another white picnic table, and another play-set with a small slide, pink and blue. This is divided by a short 3 foot wall, where there are some baskets to play basketballs. During the observation there were children both male and female present, and four female teachers. Harris is a toddler, with light blonde hair cut into a bowl shape, he has straight, smooth hair. His skin is fair, more peach with red tones, Harris is wearing khakis, a light blue polo shirt, white sneakers with blue lines on either side. He is chunky with blue eyes, small lips and a round nose. Harris notices me observing him, and smiles as he proceeds to playing.

As I start my observation Harris starts playing with a small pink plastic ball that he finds behind some wooden rectangular boards. Harris reaches with his left hand as he is sitting with his knees bent and spread apart, on the grey matt.. As soon as he acquires the ball he reaches for his mouth. A female teacher wearing a bright pink shirt comes over to Harris, he quickly notices her and turns his torso to his left. Harris mumbles something to the teacher and hands her the ball. The teacher proceeds to throw the ball in the air, all while Harris is in the same sitting position, tapping his hands on the bottom of his shoes, his mouth slightly moved to the left side. Harris is handed the ball back, he picks it up with his left hand and brings it to meet his right, as he raises the ball with the left hand and taps the top of the ball with his right hand. Harris puts the ball behind his neck, bringing it to the back of his neck and loses the ball, as it falls. Harris turns his torso to the right to reach for the ball, this time with his right hand, quickly he moves the ball to his left hand, he pats the balls from hand to hand as he's lifting it, still maintaining the same sitting position. Harris turns the ball upside down, using his fingers and wrist to do so, proceeding to hold the ball with his left hand behind his head, meeting both hands and the top of his head and moving the ball to the front of his face. Harris decides to move, he leans on his right knee to get up, pushing up with his hands, as he takes his first step he trips when his right foot twists ( he's not hurt), continues to walk towards the open space of the

facility holding the ball straight out with his left hand. He turns and looks in the direction of a sound coming from my right, the ball is in his mouth, he is sinking his bottom teeth in the ball as he walks. He stops to observe John playing with the train set, the ball is out of his mouth, he has brought the ball to his midline, ball back in his mouth after a few seconds and he makes sounds. His fingers are spread apart grasping the ball, moving it in circular motion, John moves the train to the beginning of the tracks, Harris removes ball from mouth, gazes at John, we hear now a voice/scream to our left, Harris immediately walks towards the noise. Running with his ball, holding with both hands and just the left. Harris turns slightly to the right where he finds the water table, he leans on the table resting his right hand on the edge, quickly looking up at me, he leans forward with his body and with his left hand he sets the balls down inside the table as he surmerges the ball in the water.

Harris is at the water table, his right hand on the edge of the table, his left hand is in the water picking up a white scooper, as it's lifted the water spills out the back, on the handle. During the second time of scooping water Harris notices one of the female teachers run by his left side, he follows her with his eyes and head, then we hear a faint cry. Harris hears voices behind him as John walks past him on his left, he turns over his right shoulder to take a look. Harris has picked up a white measuring cup with his right hand and fills up the cup with the scooper. He switches hands and now has the cup in his left hand, a female student approaches the table and Harris looks at her. He picks up an empty juice bottle from the table, but his grasp is not tight on the bottle, his wrists are moving; he is able to move his arms to get the bottle where he wants it. Harris fills the large container by submerging it and, brings the bottle to his mouth as if to drink from it, I tell him, "no drinking". He pushes the bottle underwater again, having difficulty using his right hand, but is able to use his left arm to push on his left hand to fill the bottle, again the bottle is brought to his mouth, his hands are facing in, elbows out, mouth opened, placing the bottle to his lips, I express once again, "no drinking". Harris looks up at me and puts the bottle down as he has a small smirk, he looks up at smiling and says, "yucky". I repeat "yucky". Harris once again grabs, with a firm grasp using his right hand, a measuring spoon, and brings it up to his mouth, I say, "no no, let's get a drink of water, want to get a drink of water?" his classmate to his right looks up at me, twice while smiling, Harris doesn't respond.

Harris leaves the manipulatives and focuses on using his hands now in the water table. He dips his right hand in the water and brings it to his mouth and licks the water off, then mumbles something with a big smile on his face. He continues to splash his hands and looks up with a small smile while he's looking towards the cubbies, then he looks at me, again licking the water of his left hand, his right hand is close to his chest, open wide. He rubs his hands together, he grabs a new cup, light blue, he looks at me and makes very small movements with his head, he has a mysterious look in his eyes as we make eye contact. He puts the cup in the water and hears sounds coming from behind him, he looks over his right shoulder and looks

towards the playground/ play-set area. I walk towards Harris, approaching from his right, he follows me with his eyes, he looks up at me when I'm standing next to him while making a sound. He is leaning on the edge of the table resting his right hand as he holds a cup with his left hand, there is now a boy across from him at the water table, he comes over my way as he says something that I can't quite make out, I say, "o ok". Harris looks up at me, showing me with his left hand his new tool, bunny scissors that he brings to his mouth with his left hand, he turns slightly to his right and makes his way towards me, he trips over his left foot. Harris uses his right hand to quickly push up, he comes to me with the bunny scissors, holding them out to me with his left hand, his thumb on one side and the other fingers on the other side, he has a smile on his face. Harris makes some sounds as he gives me the bunny scissors, I say " can you pick something up", Harris now has the scissors, cups both hands towards the top and closes the scissors and he walks away. He is back at the table splashing his hands, bringing them to his mouth to get the water, he dingles his tongue and fingers at the same time. His hands go back in the water, and another female student comes up to his left, Harris does not react. He reaches for a new measuring spoon, fills it with water, brings it up to his mid line with his mouth open as he looks at me, does a little bounce using his knees, and puts the object down. Harris walks to the corner of the water table while mumbling something, he has a smile on his face, I ask him "where's the ball?". He reaches for a pink ball in the water table, then touches the large juice container with his left hand, he puts both hands on it, then sees a small blue cup that gets his attention, he picks it up. Inspecting the cup brings it close to his chest, brings the cup to his mouth with water spilling, he sticks his tongue out, puts the cup back down, looks at me as I'm walking around the table and gives me a smile with his bottom teeth showing. His feet and pointing in towards his body as he stands by the table, he has a sour mouth as he stands there Harris runs away from the table frantically.

As Harris runs to the playground, I notice the bottom part of his legs, knees down are pointed inward as he moves, he wobbles as he runs, looks a lot like heavy stomping, his arms and hands are out. He makes his way to the sand box, a boy comes by him running and screaming, Harris climbs up the play-set and looks around the set, he climbs down, takes a few quick steps and trips over his right foot. He is on the ground in the sandy area, leaning on his hands and right leg, looking over his shoulder, something has his attention, as he smiles. He pushes up with his hands to sit up straight, smiling once again towards the left, I say " where did he go?", as he looks on, he looks at me when I say " where is Max", Harris mumbles as a response, he gets up, starts to run and trips, his reflexes act fast as he puts his hands out to catch his fall. He gets up and continues running from, both arms bent, fist clenched, he moves slightly to the left as he approaches the dirt, he slows down and begins to walk towards the back of the shed. He hears children playing, Harris moves quickly toward the sound to find 5 kids close in age with one teacher trying to break up a confrontation over who gets the shopping basket. Harris looks at the teacher talking to the two boys to

his right, there are three shopping carts, two by us and one towards the back. Harris observes as John falls as the shopping cart he had is pushed away, Harris stands by him, standing very still with his fist clenched, then open and closing both hands as he looks at me when the other child walks away with the cart. He lets out a loud sound, almost a sigh, then smiles. Harris notices a classmate crying, it draws his attention, he walks towards the crying child, almost playing with his fingers as he makes a circle as I call, "Harris get this one". Harris follows my voice, he carefully looks down at the floor to see where he is stepping and is between the bench of the picnic table and the fence, keeping his gaze straight ahead, as he walks his pointer finger in his right hand is up, while the other fingers remain down. He comes around the table to my side, I say, "uh oh, looks like Nick is going to get it", Harris's brows scrunch, then he trips, catches his fall with his hands, his legs remain rather straight as he pushes up. Harris stands with his hands and arms extended and marches in place while he smiles, his hands quickly meet each other and he touches his right fingers with his left fingers. Harris hides his bottom lip as he sees John passing him by, Harris approaches the bench and taps it with both hands, another boy walks from his left side, Harris turns his torso to the left to see the boy then to the right to follow him, all while holding on to the bench on the picnic table. Harris makes a run for it and trips over a small piece wood on the ground, he rapidly makes his way to where John is with the cart, I hear John say, "no", as John takes the cart, when he sees Harris get closer he yells, "noo" and moves the cart towards the left by the tree stumps as another boy is next to him, Harris continues his journey. Harris runs as he sees a small pink slide that is part of a play-set with blue, grey and pink coloring, he climbs up the slide with his hand and feet, suddenly he stands up on the slide, his body aiming towards me to the right, his arms are bent close to his midline, as he sees me take another steps he steps down the slide and runs my way. Harris is running, again with his arm to to his chest, hands are not clenched yet they are somewhat closed, Harris stops to look at the boy that is standing on a log, he looks at his feet carefully, after the boy jumps, Harris brings his hands down fast and softly slams them on the outside of his thighs. Harris put one foot on either side of the log and wobbles slowly, he trips, His hands immediately come out to catch him, he bear crawls the rest of the few steps, while making a loud squeaky sound, he pushes up with this hands and his right foot is bent while his left foot and leg support him. Harris pushes up, passes by me to make his way to the area with different stomps. He climbs up with his right food onto the stomp, arms close to his chest, once up there I notice he has his index and middle finger from his right hand up, other fingers down, left hand his index finger is the only one pointing. Harris draws his attention near the small wall in front of him where kids are playing. His knees and legs are touching, his knees are slightly bent, he turns to the right side making half turn, he takes small steps towards the edge of the stomp, knees slightly bent, gaze is to the ground, arms are bent, hands close to his hips. Harris leans forward with this left leg then stops, waits two seconds and takes the jump, jumping with this left leg and bringing his right leg down,

his hands are in the air, fingers are spread, his eyebrows are raised, Harris makes a safe landing and once again makes a run for it.

As I finish my observation Harris continues to run towards the front of the facility, he does not seem to notice the observation is over, he does not look back to look for me. What struck me during my observation with Harris was his preciseness to continue to attempt to drink the water even after being told not to as well as being offered to get a drink of water. I was also amazed at how fast he got up every time he tripped over his feet, with such determination to keep going, not once did he cry or make a pouting face. I learned Harris is a very active child, he loves to explore and observe his surroundings, he responds to sounds around him, his reflexes are quick to catch him. Harris is still developing social skills, as he did not interact with any other children even when they were next to him during multiple activities. I also learned Harris has some trouble grasping and gripping objects, he does not use his wrists as much, he moves his arms to better accommodate what he is doing. Harris also trips a lot over his feet since they point inward, his left side of his body is his dominant side. This goes for both his arm, hand, leg and foot, However, he does use both hands when manipulating objects. Harris also has a short attention span while doing different activities. His gross and fine motor skills and milestones are still developing and may fall under the norm. New insight I have about toddlers from my observation is their quick abilities and how eager they are to keep going but also keep exploring, even when doing it alone. This observation connects to my learning in ECE 110, as we observe the different developments in early childhood education, the stages, milestones and skills children acquire during this time, as well as noticing what falls under normal and under the norm for certain aspects.