



Conducting an Infant Observation

ECE 209-L

Guidelines

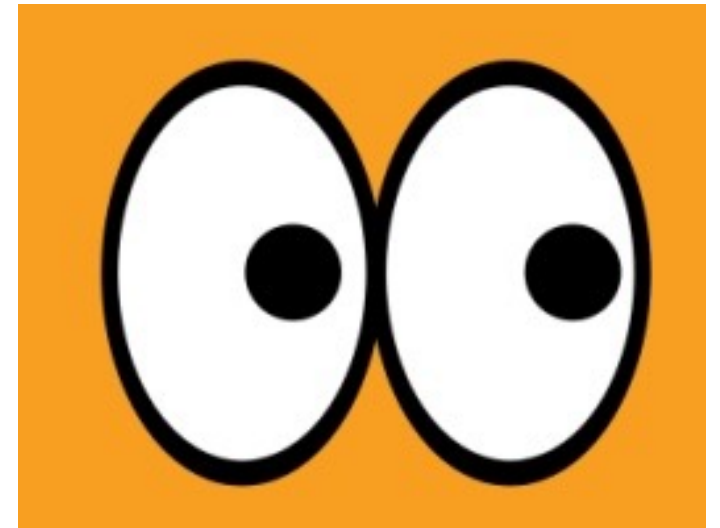


- ▶ Child must be present
- ▶ Spend at least an hour in the home
- ▶ Ask the family's permission to take notes
- ▶ Be:
 - ▶ Detailed
 - ▶ Descriptive
 - ▶ Non-judgmental/ objective
 - ▶ Capture 4+ vignettes/ mini stories of what the baby does
 - ▶ 2-3 paragraphs per vignette of detailed description)

What To Do?

Spend most of the time observing the child

- ▶ Talk with the adults to be polite, please **do not**:
 - ▶ Give advice
 - ▶ Express dis/approval for their childrearing
- ▶ Think of yourself as a video recorder
- ▶ Limit your engagement with the baby
- ▶ Notice & capture vignettes/mini-stories the of the baby's
 - ▶ interactions with the environment,
 - ▶ Interactions with other people (not with you)
 - ▶ routines



What Will You Look For?

- ▶ Physical Space

- ▶ Where
- ▶ When
- ▶ Who
- ▶ Furniture & how arranged

- ▶ Baby's appearance:

- ▶ Hair
- ▶ Skin
- ▶ Facial features
- ▶ Body type
- ▶ Clothing

- ▶ Baby's actions, reactions & interactions

- ▶ How baby moves -- include all movements



- ▶ What baby looks at/ gazes at
- ▶ What attracts baby's interest & how you know
- ▶ Toys, furniture, & materials baby uses:
 - ▶ How
- ▶ How the baby communicates
 - ▶ Vocalizes (cries, babbling, real words, etc.)
 - ▶ Other ways - facial expressions, body movements, etc.
- ▶ Interactions with people
- ▶ Anything else you notice

Sample Observation

- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDMrAYhzOdg>
- ▶ Watch the baby,
- ▶ Take notes on the “short story”/vignette you observed
 - ▶ Be as detailed & specific as possible
 - ▶ Be objective – write exactly what you see
- ▶ Repeat!
- ▶ Share what you wrote with a partner