

CONDUCTING & WRITING OBSERVATION OF AN INFANT

Now it is time to get to know the baby in more depth. You will visit the family again. At this **visit**, the child must be present, because your major task is to observe the child. Once again, you will probably need an approximately one hour for the visit. Before the observation visit, we'll discuss conducting and writing observations that are detailed, descriptive and non-judgmental (objective). Take notes during part of your visit. Ask the family's permission to do so.

Combine watching the baby with conversing with the adults, but please spend a significant amount of time observing the baby. Write what you observe in chronological, sequential order. When you talk with the family, please do not give advice or express approval or disapproval for their childrearing.

When watching the video look for the following:

- Where the observation takes place? Describe the space in detail. Who was present?
- What the baby look like – hair, skin, facial features, body type, and clothing? (if you have seen your Infant/ Family Case Study baby, you can describe them in detail)
- What the baby does, in general, during your observation?
- How the baby moves (please include all types of movements)?
- What the baby looks at, gaze at?
- What seems to attract the baby's interest? How can you tell?
- What toys, materials, and/or furniture the baby uses while you are observing? How?
- How the baby vocalizes, including cries, babbling, and using real words?
- What other ways the baby communicates, including facial expressions and gestures?
- How the baby interacts with people including you?
- What routines (eating, sleeping, toileting/ diapering, bathing, playing, transitions, etc.) you observe the family engage in? What happens during the routines? How does the baby react?
- Anything else you notice.

Think of yourself as a video recorded, taking notes on what you see. Notice and record scenarios. Capture the details of interactions between the baby and the environment, including the people in the environment.

Observation of an Infant Paper

~3 pages, type written, double spaced, standard 1" margins

Purpose: The purpose of the Observation of an Infant Paper is for you to:

- Enhance your skills as an observer;
- Focus on nuances in a child's behavior and interactions;
- Create field notes of an observation of a child;
- Document what you observed in a detailed, non-judgmental, objective and chronological format;

Task: In this paper, you will summarize what you observed to share what you saw and learned about the infant. This will build on your foundation of knowledge and information for your New Baby and Family Report (Commentary Paper). Use the notes from your observation to write a paper with the following three sections:

- Section 1: Introduction
- Section 2: Objective, Sequential Narrative Summary of the Observation
- Section 3: Conclusion

1. Introduction

- Provide the following details about the observation:
 - Describe the setting of the observation.
 - When did the observation occur? What day and time?
 - Where did the observation take place?
 - Describe the physical space.

- What furniture, materials, equipment were in the space?
 - How was the furniture, materials and equipment positioned/ arranged?
 - Who was present?
 - Describe the child.
 - How old is the child?
 - Describe the child's physical appearance -- hair, skin, facial features, body type, and clothing.
2. Objective, Sequential Narrative Summary of the Observation
- Begin with what happened at the start of your observation.
 - Capture the baby's behavior, interactions, and reactions in descriptive vignettes, or short stories. You should include 6 vignettes/short stories of what the babies did, and how, from your observation. These vignettes/ short stories should be presented in sequential order. They should describe the baby's behavior in detail.
 - Use objective, non-judgmental language to describe the baby's actions, interactions, and reactions.
 - Describe the baby's behavior and reactions using rich vivid details so the reader can picture the baby's actions.
 - Close with what happened at the end of the observation.
3. Conclusion
- Answer the following questions in the final paragraph:
 - What did you learn about the baby & family during your observation?
 - What struck you from the observation, either while observing the child or when writing the paper?
 - How does this observation connect to ECE 209? Make specific connections.

OBSERVATION OF AN INFANT PAPER CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT– if you can answer 'yes' to all questions, your paper meets criteria for the assignment

ELEMENT	DOES YOUR PAPER:	Y/N
INTRODUCTION	Include a substantive description of the setting & baby with many rich, vivid details?	
SEQUENTIAL NARRATIVE	Have an observation that was written in chronological narrative format with 6 detailed vignettes & what happens at the start & end of the observation?	
DESCRIPTION OF THE BABY'S BEHAVIOR	Substantively describe the baby's vocalizations, behavior, &/or interactions with & reactions to their environment?	
OBJECTIVE LANGUAGE	Use objective, non-judgmental language throughout?	
USE OF DETAILS	Use rich, vivid details to describe the baby's actions, reactions & interactions in their environment & people so the reader can picture the child?	
CONCLUSION	Substantively & thoughtfully identify what you learned, what struck you, & how the observation connects to 209?	
CLARITY	Have coherent, clear, organized content; many rich, vivid supporting details; & evidence of being proofread?	