

Today I observed a 8-month old baby girl named Sarah. Sarah is wearing a lavender polka dot dress with pink socks. She has a very fair skin tone, with short light brown hair, round eyes, a button nose, and small lips. This observation took place in her home, specifically in the living room, with her mother present and engaging in play. There are a few interactive toys lined up in front of Sarah as she's independently sitting in an upright position on a color block carpet. There's a pink toy piggy bank with a smiley face, that has a slot on top to insert coins, and on its side is a compartment filled with large toy coins. Next to it is a pink toy tea pot that also has a smile on it that plays musical sounds when pouring, a dessert plate that is outlined to 3 shapes, and two purple teacups. Behind Sarah is a brick closed off fireplace that is covered by stuffed animals and a few other toys that we will not be utilizing today.

In the beginning of the observation, Sarah playing with the tea set and her mother, as she laughs and slightly kicks her feet in and out. She has her legs out in front of her while holding onto a teapot with both hands. My presence does not distract her, as she is more engaged with her mother and play time. Sarah takes her left hand off of the teapot she has been holding onto, leaving it in only her right hand, and leans her body in to grasp the cup by its edge. She begins to stare at her mother and lifts up the teacup and leans in a little closer to give it to her. Her mother makes sure to say "Thank You" as she receives the cup from Sarah, stressing its importance. She is full of excitement and has a big smile on her face, with her mouth open, as she is handed back the tea cup, but isn't able to get a full grasp of the cup and smacks it down on the floor. Her face changes from a smile to a more blank look as she stares at the toy on the floor. Her mother quickly intervenes and continues with teatime asking Sarah, "Do you want some?". Sarah releases her right hand from the object that has been in her hands, leans in with a smile on her face, and picks up the teacup and hands it back to her mom. Once again her mom tells her, "Thank you". Sarah reaches over to hand her back the teacup, she grabs the cup with a light grasp, and twists her body slightly to her right and loses her grip on the cup, dropping it. The mother picks up the teapot, asking "Do you want me to pour you some tea". Sara is now focused on watching her mom pouring tea into the cups. The tilting motion of the pot causes it to play musical sounds. Sarah blinks as her mom places the pot back on

the floor, and stares at her mom while placing her left hand at the top of the pot, picking it up by the lid, and bringing it towards her mouth, hitting her slightly. She loses her grip and drops the pot on the floor. With eyes wide and her mouth open, she looks at her mom, cringes, and makes a sound. Her mom reassures that it'll be okay and fixes the pot in front of her. She lifts the lid and musical sounds play then she closes the lid. As she repeatedly opens and closes the lid, a smile emerges on her face.

Moving to the next activity, Sarah crawls towards the toys, as her mom placed them closer to herself and encourages Sarah to, "Come get it". Sarah reaches towards the dessert plate that has 3 slots, one for a square brownie, another for a triangular cheesecake, and a slot for a circular item that is missing. With the brownie now in her right hand and still in a crawling position on all 4's, she is drawn back to the tea pot, and leans her weight onto her right side as she reaches to touch the teapot with her left hand. She notices the cheesecake and takes it off of the plate and puts it into a tea cup. She attempts to put the brownie on top of it, but it bounces off and away from the cup. When this happens, Sarah goes "uh" and looks at me while maintaining her crawling position. She moves towards the cup and takes the cheesecake out and throws it down next to the brownie her mom moved closer and repeats the "uh" noise as she grabs the tea cup with her palm and brings it towards her. She lets go of the cup, sits up, grabs the brownie, twists her body as if looking behind her, and put it in her mouth. She begins to twist her body side to side, while licking the toy brownie, holding it with both hands.

This next activity focuses on the interaction with the piggy bank. Sarah's mom brings the piggy bank towards her and opens the side compartment, releasing the big coins onto the floor. Sarah, who is sitting up with her legs crossed, grabs as many coins as she can and uses the single yellow coin in her right hand to smack against the orange coin in her left hand. She does this one time, before bringing her attention to the piggy bank, placing her right hand on the pig's back, and holding the 2 coins in the other. She then brings her focus back to the coins and looks when her mom begins pointing to the opening on the pig's back, telling her to, "put it there," and smacks the area. Looking back at the coins, she transfers them to her right hand, and attempts to put them both through the slot and looks up at her mom, with a slight smirk, and holding the coins in the air. Her mom attempts to get her to put the coins in the slot

again, as she points while saying “in there”. Sarah looks before bringing the coins down to her feet, while sitting with her right leg in, and left leg out. Her mom gets her attention when she grabs a blue coin, shows her it at eye level, and says, “watch” as she inserts the coin into the slot. Sarah then grabs the blue coin from the side compartment and attempts to insert it but doesn’t go in the slot. Shortly after, with the coin in her left hand, she twists to the side, with both hands on the coin. Trying to regain her attention, her mom presses a button on the pig that sounds, “It’s learning time” and Sarah looks at the piggy bank. Her mom demonstrates what to do with the coin and piggy bank again. The pig is now playing music and a smile emerges on Sarah’s face, as she smiles she looks at her mom and then towards me, showing her bottom teeth and slightly laughs. With a smile still in place, she reaches towards the pig, while looking at me, and reaches for coins with her left hand. She grabs for the brownie, and holds it in the air, with a big open smile looking at her mom and leans forward, extends her left arm toward her mom, and has the coin in her fingers. Sarah dropped the coin causing it to bounce off onto the floor. Sarah stops, looks down and says “uh” while her mom picks it up and says “Thank you.” Sarah crawls away.

For my final observation, Sarah’s mom encourages her to stand up on her own while holding onto an interactive play gym. Sarah uses her right hand to rest on an orange monkey, while resting her other hand along the green ledge. While gaining her balance and looking forward, she uses her right hand to touch the monkey. When her mom asks, “do you make the monkey sing?”, she looks at her and brings her body back to the middle, while placing her right hand next to her left. Sarah is squealing and smiling. She stops squealing, is still smiling, and begins to look forward, while only using her right hand to swipe the toy up and down. She smiles, with her mouth open as she continues this movement. When the toy makes an elephant sound, Sarah is quickly drawn and looks down at it quickly and brings her head back up, looking forward. She begins to bring her butt in and out while holding her balance holding onto the toy, smiling. She then switches to a circular motion, moving her hips around, laughing loudly while staring at me. Her legs are too far back and she doesn’t know how to maneuver her legs back towards her so her mother assists. While looking over her right shoulder, she loses her balance and falls to the ground but still holding onto the play gym with her left arm. She looks up to her mom and her mom reassures her that

it's okay. She turns back to looking at the gym and attempts to bring herself back up and starts to whine as she stares at me. When I reassure her that her mom will help her, she stops whining. She stands for a while balancing herself with the gym and interacts with the activity gym making it play music, smiling and sticking her tongue out. Her mom comes from behind, pushing her hips and butt in to a sitting position to help her grasp the concept of transitioning from standing to sitting. Sarah is calm, with a blank face, as she stares forward, and holds her body in a stiff manner. Her mom then grabs her from her arm, to help ease her, until she is sitting on the floor.

In conclusion, during this observation a few things about Sarah stuck out to me. I have a deeper understanding of Sarah's temperament. Sarah is constantly smiling. She holds great interest when her mom is showing her new things, and even attempts to copy her actions. However, after a few failed attempts, she does lose interest and ventures off to something new. Sarah also finds joy in interactive toys that makes noise or play music. I also found joy in how interactive, calm, and consistent her mother was when demonstrating how to use toys correctly and how to sit, this will definitely help in her development and give her that confidence she needs. A new insight I have with infants is to not give up even though the children might lose interest in the moment, continue to be patient with them and be consistent with the teaching. If after a few attempts the child continues to lose interest, then move on to the next, but don't give up on them so easily. Also, when an infant isn't comfortable or confident in a certain areas of development, it is noticeable. When Sarah was standing, trying to gain her balance, she barely made sudden movements and stared ahead. This observation connects to what I have learned so far in ECE-209 because it shows both Sarah's gross and fine motor skills as well as her milestones. It also touches base on the consistency, love and positive energy needed for a child in order to gain their trust and provide a safe environment to encourage them to explore. It also connects on the caregivers role with the child and its importance for development.