

Focused Observation Examples

It is snack time. Sam sits in the chair with his elbows on the table. The teacher asks if he wants milk or water by holding a carton of milk or cup of water in front of him across the table. He points to the carton of milk with his right index finger while tilting his head back to look up at her. His hands disappear under the table as she puts a tray with a measuring cup filled about 1/8 cup of milk and a plastic cup on the table in front of him. He watches her movements with his eyes wide. He wraps the fingers of his right hand gently around the handle of the measuring cup, in an opposing thumb grasp. His eyes are focused on his hand and the objects in front of him. He lifts the measuring cup, and it shakes slightly as he does so. He bites his lower lip when he sees the trembling. His eyes dart to his teacher who is standing across the table and watching Sam. She says, "I'm watching you Sam," in a reassuring and quiet tone. Sam brings his left hand from under the table and takes hold of the plastic cup gently. With slow and deliberate movements, he lifts the measuring cup up to the top of the plastic cup's mouth. The lip of the measuring cup rests on the top of the plastic cup that Sam is holding and he gradually raises his right elbow so the contents of the measuring cup trickle into the plastic cup. He eyes are watching the milk fill the plastic cup. There is a large indentation on his lower lip where his teeth are pushing into his flesh, indicating the pressure of his bite. He tips the measuring cup to an almost vertical upside down position as he watches the last drops fall into the plastic cup. The teacher smiles and claps, "You did it Sam!", as he rotates his wrist and turns the measuring cup back to the upright position. He places the measuring cup back on the tray and wraps both hands around the plastic cup. Sam gently and slowly lifts the cup from the tray and places it on the table in front of him. He breathes a huge sigh, slouches into his chair, relaxes his shoulders, and looks around the room at what was happening.

Sam is holding a large wooden spoon in his right hand with an opposing thumb grasp and a large plastic bowl against his chest with his left hand and arm. Sam appears to be stirring with his right hand and is looking into the bowl. Jose walks over and asks, "What ya makin'? I have some?". Sam looks up and his eyes follow Jose as Jose goes to sit at the table. In a flurry of activity, Sam stops stirring, puts the bowl down on the stove and with his right hand turns the knob of the stove to the left. He grabs the dish towel from the counter, slings it over his shoulder, opens the cabinet, and takes out dishes, pots and pans. In rapid succession, he puts a pot and a pan on the stove, and turns the knobs again. He opens the door to the microwave, pours some of the contents from the bowl onto the plate using the wooden spoon, puts the plate into the microwave. He pushes buttons on the microwave keypad then scoops more contents from the bowl into the pot and pan on the stove. He takes the wooden spoon from the large bowl and stirs the contents of the pot and pan. He puts a plate on top of the pot. He takes the plate out of the microwave and puts it on the table in front of Jose. He spins around, opens the drawer beside the stove, grabs a spoon and places it beside Jose's plate. He turns around back to the stove, lifts the plate covering the pot, stirs the contents of the pot and pan. He brings the spoon to his mouth, as if tasting the food, then takes the salt and pepper shakers and adds spices to the pot and pan. Sam tastes the food again, nods his head, and scoops the

contents of the pot and pan onto separate plates. He grabs both plates and puts them on the table by Jose with a huge smile on his face.

Sam is sitting on the floor with his legs crossed. He has a 9-piece non-interlocking, small knobbed puzzle of zoo animals in front of him. He puts his head on his elbows, his elbows on his knees, and looks at the puzzle. He lifts the formboard off the floor by placing both hands on each side and turns it over so all the pieces fall out to the floor. The foarmboard falls to the floor and Sam picks the corner up with his right hand, flipping it over. He picks up a zebra piece with the small knob using his right hand, and examines it closely. He twists the knob and the piece turns while he twists it. He turns his head to look at the formboard. He puts the puzzle piece on the formboard and attempts to fit the piece into a hole. He turns the puzzle piece right and left. He takes the puzzle piece away from the formboard and looks at the piece then the formboard. He puts the piece in another location and rotates the piece until it slides in. The puzzle makes the sound of a zebra braying and Sam looks startled, then laughs. He looks up, looks around the room, he sees the observer looking and him and locks eyes with her. He points to the puzzle, smiles, and laughs. He picks up the next puzzle piece, an elephant, with his right hand. He looks at the puzzle piece, then twists the piece in his fingers using the small knob while looking at the formboard. He puts the piece on the formboard, rotates it slightly and the piece slides into the puzzle. He laughs as the puzzles makes the sound of the elephant, looking at the observer and pointing at the puzzle. He picks up a gorilla puzzle piece next with his right hand while looking at the formboard.