

Capstone Project for ECE 308:
The Study of Child Development &
Observation Techniques

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Observation techniques:

During my time of studying in my major early childhood development in Borough of Manhattan community college, I was able to observe children from the ages 18 months - 3 years old. In this past semester I have learned many techniques and strategies on observing children's development. I will not only use it as a Professional but also as a parent when I become one. I was able to understand what is a descriptive review and an objective observation to identify each child's domain that I have worked with during this semester. I visited an early head start development called Grand street settlement. There I observed a classroom of toddlers ages from 12 months-36 months who were exercising all of their developmental domain. I started with a Developmental Checklist which consisted of a list of milestones for a certain age range of children. The main purpose of this observation is to track the children's developmental level based on their age. Next I completed an editar record. Anecdotal record is a written record or note of what a child says or does within the context of classroom activities and routines. Then I worked on a running record, (documenting what a child is doing/ saying in a social environment). Also I worked on work samples, which is using portfolios, drawing, note taking on the child's progress. Lastly I worked on a descriptive review for each observation which summarized everything I observed with the child. These techniques are ways for educators to use while observing, and have a better understanding of a child.

Gross & Fine Motor Checklist

Date: November 05, 2021 Child Name: Jasper Age: 1 years old and 10mth

<u>Gross Development Skill</u>	<u>Yes or No</u>
<i>Walks smoothly and turns corners</i>	Yes
<i>Begins running</i>	Yes
<i>Is able to pull or carry a toy while walking</i>	Yes
<i>Climbs onto/down from furniture without assistance</i>	Yes
<i>Walks up and down steps with support</i>	No

<u>Fine motor Development skill</u>	<u>Yes or No</u>
<i>Builds tower of three small blocks</i>	Yes
<i>Puts four rings on stick</i>	Yes
<i>Places five pegs in pegboard</i>	N/A
<i>Turns pages two or three of a book at a time</i>	Yes
<i>Scribbles</i>	Yes
<i>Turns knobs</i>	No
<i>Paints with whole arm movement, shifts hands, makes strokes</i>	Yes
<i>Self-feeds with minimal assistance-</i>	Yes
<i>Able to use signing to communicate-</i>	Yes
<i>Brings spoon to mouth</i>	Yes
<i>Holds and drinks from cup independently</i>	Yes

Analysis: According to the Gross and fine motor development checklist Jasper appears to be meeting most of the developmental milestones for gross and fine motor skills.

Descriptive Review

The child I am observing is Jasper. He is 22 months old. Jasper is wearing a yellow sweater and gray sweatpants. As I entered the classroom Jasper was seated on the carpet accompanied with his teachers Ms. Elma and Ms. Brenda, and his fellow classmates. Jasper was jumping up and down. He uses his body to push, sit and climb. Jasper is able to run and climb with no assistance.

Child name: Jasper

Anecdotal Observation: Social and Emotional development

Jasper is 22 months old, fair skinned, with a short black haircut. I observed Jasper interacting with another child named Jaiden. Jaiden and Jasper were playing with a soft basketball and the basketball hoop. They were both throwing it in the hoop. Jaiden threw the ball to the other side of the classroom and Jasper began to laugh. And Jasper proceeded to do the same. And they both would laugh and run for the ball.

Descriptive Review

It appears that Jasper enjoys playing with Jaiden. They both shared the ball and hoop. They both gave each other attention and continued to entertain one another. So much that they both began laughing and showed excitement.

Analysis: I enjoyed observing Jasper and Jaiden's interaction with one another. It amazed me how both children were able to entertain each other with just a ball. Jasper exceeds his level of emotional development for a 22 month old.

Childs Name: Jasper

Anecdotal Observation: Cognitive Development

Every morning Ms. Elma and Ms. Brenda have group time. This morning they had all the children join the carpet and they will place their picture in school on the board. They have one board that says at home, and all the children in the classroom pictures would be there, and then there's a board that says in school. All the children that are in the circle go one by one up to the board that says home and grab their picture and place it in school. It was Jasper's turn and the teachers would say "hi Jasper are you in school today" and then Jasper would stand up and walk over to the board that says home and place his picture in school.

Descriptive Review

Jasper shows that he can follow a simple routine. This observation shows that Jasper understands what's going on around him.

Analysis: In this observation Jasper was able to navigate, use memory. He is on the right track to cognitive development.

Child name: Jasper

<i>Language Development</i>	<i>Yes or No</i>
Reacts to loud sounds	Yes
Coos and makes sounds	Yes
Respond to their own name	Yes
Following simple instructions	Yes
Joining 2 words together	No
Saying simple first words	No

Analysis: Jasper Responds to his name, he makes sounds and he reacts to sounds. My observation is that he does not form two word sentences and simple words. Jasper is on the righttrack to language development but has more work to do.

Descriptive review

I observed Jasper while reading alouds. Jasper would be asked what color he sees he will point and identify it but wouldn't respond verbally. That day he would stand up and stand in front of the group while Ms.Elma would read. He would engage in the reading aloud but not verbally.

Conclusion

While writing my paper I realized that kids are a huge responsibility, they require a lot of attention and they learn everything from what's around them. I learned that infants and toddlers have a short attention span, they are joyful, and they like to do things on their own. While observing Jasper I noticed each domain entwined with one another. For example Jasper physical development and cognitive development both untwine with one another. Jasper shows cognitive development while playing with the basketball because of his ability to grasp on to the ball. Jasper shows physical development while he's jumping and throwing the ball in the hoop.

While observing Jasper I have learned that each child has their own way of developing. They have their weaknesses and strengths. Observing each domain has taught me different skills how to help a child's growth. This experience has taught me how to write and well developed observation. I learned many ways to create an observation and will utilize everything I have learned.