

Child Observation Instructions

1. Observe a child between the ages of _____ for a 10-15 minute period using the department approved child observation sheet found on the CCED Website. Finished copy must be computer generated. (3b)
2. Sit in an unobtrusive location.
3. Taking into consideration the multiple influences on development and learning complete the heading. Include the child's first name only for confidentiality, indicate sex, date, age, start and finish time, your name, activity child is participating in and types of interactions. (1b)
4. The physical description of the child should be objective and reflect responsible assessment. It should include eye color, hair color plus length or style, all clothing, height and weight. Based on your understanding of young children's physical characteristics determine average, above average or below average height and weight. (3c)
5. The summary of activities observed (left hand column of page) should include a running record of activities demonstrated by the child as they are occurring. This should be written in the present tense paying attention to details about the child's physical development and specific physical movements (hands and feet used, walking, running etc.). To focus on language development the child should be quoted directly. Focus on this child's social development by including all interactions with other children and adults. Describe the child's reactions exactly as they occur to reflect the child's emotional development. There should be no gaps in activity during the observation. The child should not be "sitting on the floor" and then be "washing his hands," without noting how he moved from one place to another. The observer can only observe one child at a time and should avoid interacting with this child while observing him or her. (1a, 1b)
6. Show your understanding of the benefits and uses of assessment by documenting (right hand column of page) at least 7 inferences/opinions related directly to what was observed. These inferences/opinions should address specific areas of development such as physical/motor development, social/emotional development, cognitive, language & literacy development. These should not be statements of fact, but an interpretation of what has been observed. They should be stated in clear and positive terminology. (3a)
7. Use developmental knowledge observed to determine one accommodation to the environment or one strategy to support the child's learning. (1c)
8. Spelling and grammar should be accurate throughout.

NAEYC Standards: 1a, 1b, 1c, 3a, 3b, 3c
Supportive Skills: 3, 4