

Name _____ Period _____ Date _____

Observation Participation Chart

Objectives:

After completing this observation, you will be able to

- Use a participation chart to assess activity preferences during self-selected play
- Evaluate children's activity preferences during self-selected play

Observe a small group of children in a preschool setting for a minimum of 30 minutes. Record their participation in specific play areas/centers. Then evaluate and summarize their preferences.

Child's Name	Age
Jack	Dramatic play
Calvin	Block Building
Olivia	Art
Griffin	Science

Write the names of the children in the spaces provided. Insert the time of your observation in the left-hand column. Review the codes listed under the chart. For each 10-minute segment, record the activity or activities in which each child participated. For example, if a child only played with block building for the first 10-minute segment, record a *b* in the space provided. If the child moved from block building to dramatic play during that time period, both a *b* and *dp* need to be recorded in the space.

Observation:

Activity Preferences During Self-Selected Play						
Children's Names	Jack	Calvin	Olivia	Griffin		
1__ :21 - _1_ :31	dp	b	a	s		
1 :31 - _1_ :41	dp	b	a	b		
1 :41 - __1 :51	b	b	dp	s		
1 :51 - _2_ :01	b	a	r	b		
2 :01 - _2_ :11	dp	a	dp	dp		

a=art, b=blockbuilding, c=computers, dp=dramatic play, l=language, m=math/manipulatives, r=reading/listening, s=science/sensory

Review:

1. Which child remained engaged in one activity for the longest period of time? Explain.

Calvin remained engaged in one activity the longest. He stayed in block building for a long time which in his case is Lego block building or train set building which makes a lot of sense since he is quiet and shy he felt more comfortable staying in one place where others could seek him out if they wanted.

2. Which child moved most frequently from activity to activity?

Griffin moved more frequently than other children did from activity to activity because he is hyper, always moving around and will drop what he's doing and pick up something new meaning he can't hold interest as long as others

3. Which activities did the children engage in the most? Explain.

Dramatic play and block building. This makes sense because they are the most creative in imagination and exploration. Kids love dressing up and pretending to be superheroes, firemen, princesses, etc. Block building is another big one because kids love to touch everything and create which block building allows them to try out these new fine motor skills they have.

4. Which activities did the children engage in the least? Explain.

Math and reading, however in the activities that are the most engaged by children they are doing math and reading skills without even realizing it and it makes sense because these children were given free play to CHOOSE these activities and most kids do not choose Math and Reading first or a lot. That may sound bad because obviously at that age kids need to learn to read and do math, but at their developing stages they play to learn too.

5. How could you use the information gained from this assessment?

With the knowledge gained from this assessment I would use it in real life by applying more of the needed areas of learning such as math and literacy into popular areas of play to get the kids using more parts of their brain and of course different areas of play and learning.