

## Ages and Stages Child Study

### Purpose:

- ❖ To learn about the range of normal behavior in a 3 to 5 year old child.
- ❖ To apply the principles and theories presented in this course to a child in a real life situation.
- ❖ To discover what can be learned by careful observation of a child.
- ❖ To practice observation skills and develop the ability to describe behavior in detailed and non-judgmental terms.

### Overview:

- ❖ You will compare and contrast the development of a toddler with a preschooler using observation and the assessment tool, the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP).
  - ❖ From the observation booth, you will observe a child in the Cabrillo College Preschool for one hour and collect data reflecting the same child's development in the three domains of development (cognitive, physical and psychosocial).
  - ❖ You will write an essay comparing and contrasting the development of two children using your observations and the DRDP.
- 

## The Observation

Drop-in and observe a preschooler for one hour from the preschool observation booth (am program 8:30-12pm / pm program 1-5pm). Thank you for your cooperation with the observation booth etiquette that is posted. Be sure to sign-in on the hanging clipboard outside the door before entering the booth.

Observe all the children for about 15 minutes. Then pick one child to be "yours" and observe them for the remainder of the time. Each child's first name and birth date is noted on the back wall of the observation booth. Be sure to include this information on your observation forms.

Take notes on how your child utilizes play to make sense of the world. Try to note the use of language when possible (although this will be difficult to do from the booth). Notice how your child interacts with others and how she/he might feel about her or him self. Watch how your child moves throughout the environment.

At the end of your hour, exit the booth and find a quiet place to complete your observation forms. Remember to use complete sentences and punctuation. Document your 3 best examples for each of the 3 domains.

### How To Write your Paper

## Ages and Stages Child Study

Before you begin to write, be sure you have reviewed the chapters and understand all the terminology in the text book, the assessment tool (DRDP) and class lectures. Write a first draft of the paper, and then have someone proofread it for coherence and for accuracy.

As with all college level papers, this project must be legible, written/typed (double spaced size 12 or 14) on one side of the page only, utilize accurate spelling and grammar. Be sure to title each section of the project and to turn it stapled together or in a folder.

**Your final project will include the following in the order noted:**

1. An evaluation cover sheet (*see attached*)
2. Data (your 3 observation sheets)
3. An essay (31 students only)
4. Personal Evaluation and Assessment

### **I     Data**

3 complete observation forms for your preschooler

- Describe how "your" preschool child used her/his time during your observation using detailed, descriptive and objective language.

### **II     Analysis Essay (31 students only)**

**Based on your observations of a toddler and preschooler**, describe how play fosters development in two developmental domains in both age groups. One of the two areas of development must include the cognitive domain. Support your analysis with at least three examples from **your observations** (be sure to cite the date of your observation for each example). Choose examples that represent a "growing edge" for your child. Use developmental terminology from your text book, the DRDP and class lectures.

*\*\*This is an essay; Please follow MLA format and include a thesis statement, an introduction and conclusion. Be sure to develop you ideas in an organized fashion throughout the essay and in each paragraph.*

### **III    Personal Evaluation / Assessment** **(Required for 31 and 131 students)**

You and your children, you as a researcher, you as a learner

1. *You and your children:* How did you feel about the children you observed? How are these children like/unlike you as a child? (If you don't remember, make your best guess.) What advice would you pass on to your children's parents and/or teachers? (Don't skip this! This must be specific advice - not just "keep doing what you're doing").
2. *You and your academic skill:* How well did you do in describing behavior in detail? Observing non-judgmentally? Applying developmental terms and concepts? Writing a coherent, well organized, college level paper?
3. *You and this assignment:* What parts of this assignment were most interesting? What was hardest? Overall what was the most significant learning for you?