

Sample Guided Questions Observation

Objective: To learn how using guided questions in observations can help those learning to observe identify and interpret preschoolers' social skills.

Directions: Read the following example of a completed guided questions observation. Notice how the observation form asks questions specific to what is being observed. Notice how the sample answers use descriptive language to give the reader a visual picture of what is observed.

VIDEO CLIP A

1. Describe the action as the children played in the kitchen.

Sample answer: Three children pretend to make tacos. Girl in blue says she wants pizza instead, but there is no pepperoni. She is going to the store. She says "where are my keys?" and pretends to leave for store. The boy with the orange shorts asks "What is her problem?"

2. How did the children relate to one another?

Sample answer: They worked together making tacos, but frowned when girl in blue decided they should make pizza. Child in stripes shook her head and made clicking sound with her tongue.

3. How did they use costumes to assume their roles?

Sample answer: One wore an apron. Girl in blue put on sunglasses and took purse to "store."

VIDEO CLIP B

4. Describe the action at the pretend tea party.

Sample answer: Four children sit at round table with tea cups and plates and napkins. Tallest girl pours pretend tea for each. Shows the only boy how to hold tea cup. He says in a loud voice, "I already know how to do it."

5. Give at least two examples of attempts at polite behavior.

Sample answer: Boy smiles and says, "These are very good cookies." Children say "thank you" after tea is poured. Girl in purple says, "May I please have some more?"

Anecdotal Record Sample

Observer Carolyn Pilon Location Sunshine PreschoolChild Kim Child's Age(s) 3

Observation Objective: To observe the separation period and adjustment to preschool for Kim, a newly enrolled child.

Anecdotal Record	
Description	Interpretation
<p>Date: October 7 Time: 9:00-9:05 a.m.</p> <p>Kim and her mom appear at the door holding hands. They stand in the doorway until Mrs. Green spots the teacher and as the teacher moves toward the pair, Kim leans closer to her mother. The teacher kneels down to Kim and says, "Kim, we're so glad you'll be staying with us a little while this morning while your mother goes to the dentist." Kim looks at the teacher but clings to her mother's leg.</p> <p>The teacher stands and says to the parent. "I'm sure she'll do fine." Kim's mother says, "I hope so. We've just moved here and I've never left her with a group of children like this. I hope she doesn't cry." Kim's eyes begin to water. Saying "I hope the other children will be nice," Mrs. Greene bends down to Kim. "Give Mommy a big hug and kiss." I'll miss you, but I'll be back real soon. As she hugs Kim, Kim really starts to cry. "Mommy, please take me!"</p> <p>The mother pulls Kim's arms away. "Now, Mommy will be right back." The teacher takes Kim's hand and says, "Would you like to paint a picture to show your mommy when she comes back to pick you up?" Kim's eyes scan the room. The teacher tells Mrs. Green that Kim will probably stop crying as soon as she is occupied in an interesting activity. The mother leaves.</p> <p>Kim is led to the art center, where the teacher asks her to choose a smock. Kim chooses by pointing her finger. She is still whimpering. The teacher helps Kim put on the smock, then sits in a chair and puts her arm around Kim. "You may feel a little scared here in this new place." The child and teacher are quiet for several minutes. "Let me show you how to wipe the brush." The teacher helps Kim get started painting, and now she has stopped crying.</p>	<p>This is Kim's first time to stay at the preschool. She seems a little scared and shy.</p> <p>This might be giving Kim the idea to cry. The mother seems to be as anxious as the child.</p> <p>Kim may have mixed feelings. She is interested in what's going on, but she is scared.</p> <p>The teacher shows that she accepts Kim's feelings but also wants her to get involved in an activity.</p>