

Preschooler Observation PLUS

Social & Emotional Development



EDUCATOR'S RESOURCE GUIDE

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Related Learning Seed Programs

- *Preschooler Observation PLUS! DVD set (includes Narrator-guided Analyses)*
- *Preschoolers DVD set*
- *Preschoolers (Overview) DVD*
- *A Child's Mind DVD*

Introduction

Why clips?

Observation is an important skill for teachers of young children. Knowing what to look for and how to interpret what we see requires practice and, often, the guidance and feedback of an experienced observer.

When observing children in real-life, it isn't possible to pause an activity to discuss what the children are doing. We can't hit "replay" to review an interesting moment. But when the children are on film, we *are* able to pause, replay, discuss, and ask questions.

Where did these clips come from?

These video clips were chosen from hours of footage filmed over several days at a preschool. The scenes were not planned, and the children and teachers were not told what to say or do.

Does each clip show just one domain of development?

Children develop in all the domains simultaneously, so it's certainly possible to view a particular clip and notice behaviors characteristic of several developmental domains. There's a lot going on in one clip!

The clips in this program are based on the behaviors that seemed to most strongly demonstrate characteristics or milestones of social-emotional development. Each clip includes three focus points to help viewers look for and consider specific concepts and behaviors. The points are intended to be used as a guide, not a finite list.

What is the purpose of the analyses?

One purpose of these clips is to develop viewer's awareness and appreciation of the rich and complex skills and abilities children possess at a very early age. The analyses describe what the children in the clip are doing or saying and then explain and connect the observed behaviors with traits that are characteristic of development at different stages or ages.

Consider the analyses to be possible responses to the "Ask Yourself" questions that precede the clip itself. These questions are open-ended and purposely written to invite a variety of responses.

What are the recording sheets for?

The recording sheets are provided to help viewers organize their notes and thoughts as they watch a particular clip. There is a recording sheet specific to each clip and one "all-purpose" recording sheet.

These clips are short and focused -- they go by quickly! To optimize viewers' observations, pause or replay clips for comments, questions, and discussion.

Program Overview

Clip 1 Sharing Space

Focus:

- Conflict resolution
- Self-regulation
- Cooperation

Overview: Joey and Nathan are playing with cars in the same area in which Kelsey is building a store. A conflict arises when Joey’s car zooms into Kelsey’s store space.

Clip 2 At the Table

Focus:

- Self-regulation
- Social rules
- Conversation

Overview: The children, starting with Joey, serve themselves a snack of English muffins and juice. The teacher gives the children guidance.

Clip 3 Freeze!

Focus:

- Game invention
- Social rules
- Peer teaching

Overview: Tyler, Joey, Matthew, and Michael have been jumping off the table, a game they invented, when Joey starts jumping backward. He pretends to be a bad guy being ordered to “Freeze!” A girl, Payton, joins the boys for one jump.

Clip 4 Let Me Try!

Focus:

- Initiative
- Self-concept
- Risk-taking

Overview: Children climb and hang upside-down on the dome play structure.

Clip 5 A Treasure for Me!

Focus:

- Collaboration
- Parallel play
- Cooperative play

Overview: Nathan, Joey, and Michael are playing with digging tools and trucks in the sandbox when they suddenly discover buried treasure.

Clip 6 Rough-and-Tumble

Focus:

- Rough-and-tumble play
- Social competence
- Aggression

Overview: Marie and Payton wrestle, tickle, and play-fight.

Clip 7 Don't Tell

Focus:

- Conflict resolution
- Onlooker behavior
- Problem-solving

Overview: Children play with toy cars on a block ramp they've built. When a conflict arises between Joey and Nathan, their teacher intervenes.

Clip 8 Doing a Project

Focus:

- Pro-social behavior
- Initiative
- Self-regulation

Overview: Kelsey, Marie, and Payton use tape, scissors, and paper as they work on a creative project. Avery enters the scene and marks Kelsey's paper with a rubber stamp.

Clip 9 Constume Conflict

Focus:

- Conflict
- Aggression
- Egocentrism

Overview: Justin and Avery get into a scuffle over the headpiece for the costume Avery is wearing.

Clip 10 Castle for Sale

Focus:

- Pretend play
- Scripting
- Leadership

Overview: David and Ben play in the block area as David scripts a scenario that involves a toy castle.

Clip 11 Ballet Suit

Focus:

- Assertive behavior
- Social competence
- Peer learning

Overview: Asheli and Delaney play with costumes and props. As Delaney tries to put on a ballet suit, Asheli watches and shares her opinions.

Clip 12 What Can I Be?

Focus:

- Leadership
- Engagement
- Cooperative play

Overview: David assumes control of the computer mouse as Semmy, Will, Delaney, and Michael choose vehicles for their characters.

Clip 13 Diapers!

Focus:

- Potty talk
- Shared humor
- Social norms

Overview: Matthew turns the pages of a book, as Joey and Michael look at the pictures and comment.

Clip 14 Look It!

Focus:

- Social interaction
- Empathy
- Social cues

Overview: Semmy, Nathan, and other children sit beside each other at a round table during independent reading time.

Clip 15 Lunch Is Served!

Focus:

- Independence
- Social rules
- Self-control

Overview: A teacher and children sit together at a table to enjoy lunch.

Observation Recording Sheet

Name _____ Date _____

<p>Observations <i>What do I see?</i></p>	
<p>Comments/Conclusions <i>What can I say?</i> <i>What do I think?</i></p>	
<p>Evidence <i>Which observations support my conclusions?</i></p>	
<p>Related theories <i>What theories of development support my conclusions?</i></p>	

Observation Recording Sheet

Name _____ Date _____

Clip 1 Sharing Space	
How does Joey's use of language show social competence?	
What is Kelsey's problem-solving approach?	
Why are the children eventually able to share the space?	
Related Theories of Development	Other Comments/Conclusion

Observation Recording Sheet

Name _____ **Date** _____

Clip 2 At the Table	
How does Joey manage frustration?	
What typical preschool social behaviors do you see?	
How can mealtime develop social skills?	
Related Theories of Development	Other Comments/Conclusion

Observation Recording Sheet

Name _____ **Date** _____

Clip 3 Freeze!	
What makes this game fun?	
What are the rules of this game?	
How does Payton fit into the game?	
Related Theories of Development	Other Comments/Conclusion

Observation Recording Sheet

Name _____ **Date** _____

Clip 4 Let Me Try!	
How does this activity encourage children’s sense of initiative?	
How does this activity build children’s self-concept?	
How does this activity foster the children’s peer relationships?	
Related Theories of Development	Other Comments/Conclusion

Observation Recording Sheet

Name _____ **Date** _____

Clip 5 A Treasure For Me!	
What tells you Joey is engaged in parallel play?	
How does Joey respond when his play area is destroyed?	
What strategies do the children use to play as a group?	
Related Theories of Development	Other Comments/Conclusion

Observation Recording Sheet

Name _____ **Date** _____

Clip 6 Rough-and-Tumble	
How does this activity help develop social competence?	
How is rough-and-tumble play different from fighting?	
How should adults react to rough-and-tumble play?	
Related Theories of Development	Other Comments/Conclusion

Observation Recording Sheet

Name _____ **Date** _____

Clip 7 Don't Tell	
What are the differences in the boys' play & interaction?	
Why might it be that Matthew doesn't get involved?	
How does the teacher facilitate resolution?	
Related Theories of Development	Other Comments/Conclusion

Observation Recording Sheet

Name _____ **Date** _____

Clip 8 Doing a Project	
What behaviors tell us Kelsey is most likely popular?	
Why doesn't Avery respond to Kelsey's request?	
What helps Kelsey regulate her emotions?	
Related Theories of Development	Other Comments/Conclusion

Observation Recording Sheet

Name _____ **Date** _____

Clip 9 Costume Conflict	
How is Avery's aggression different from Justin's?	
Why does the aggression escalate?	
What is the focus of the teacher's intervention?	
Related Theories of Development	Other Comments/Conclusion

Observation Recording Sheet

Name _____ **Date** _____

Clip 10 Castle For Sale	
How is David's behavior characteristic of a leader?	
What is Ben's role in the boys' play?	
How would you describe David's level of social competency?	
Related Theories of Development	Other Comments/Conclusion

Observation Recording Sheet

Name _____ **Date** _____

Clip 11 Ballet Suit	
How are Asheli and Delaney well-matched as playmates?	
What tells you Delaney is emotionally secure?	
What does Asheli learn by observing Delaney?	
Related Theories of Development	Other Comments/Conclusion

Observation Recording Sheet

Name _____ **Date** _____

Clip 12 What Can I Be?	
Is David's behavior bossy or directive?	
Why do children come and go during this activity?	
Do you consider this activity playing or watching?	
Related Theories of Development	Other Comments/Conclusion

Observation Recording Sheet

Name _____ **Date** _____

Clip 13 Diapers	
For the boys, what is the purpose of this activity?	
Why do the boys get so silly?	
How does Matthew react to the other boys' excitement?	
Related Theories of Development	Other Comments/Conclusion

Observation Recording Sheet

Name _____ **Date** _____

Clip 14 Look It!	
Why does Semmy continue to interrupt Nathan's reading?	
How does the group deal with an annoying peer?	
How would you describe Semmy's ability to read social situations?	
Related Theories of Development	Other Comments/Conclusion

Observation Recording Sheet

Name _____ **Date** _____

Clip 15 Lunch Is Served!	
How does the teacher help the children develop independence?	
What social rules are being taught or reinforced?	
How can mealtime help develop self-control?	
Related Theories of Development	Other Comments/Conclusion

Legal Niceties

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