



Learning Activity 1—Examples and Nonexamples

Activity Overview: In this practice activity, you will select descriptive, factual anecdotal notes from pairs of examples and nonexamples.

Directions: Read the following pairs of observation notes. Which notes are written objectively? Circle the letter of the note that uses only facts rather than opinions or assumptions.

1. House Center

- A. Janna imitates teachers in house center—stirs dried beans in pot on toy stove, pretends to feed dolls with spoon, covers dolls in cradle with blankets. Stayed with activity 8 minutes.
- B. Janna loves to imitate teachers in house center as they work throughout day. Temperament very easygoing—seems to display much patience with learning new activities. Stayed with activity for long time.

2. Guest Reader

- A. Kevin—slower to warm up than other children. Parent came in—read children books—sat on floor with them. Kevin did not want to be near her.
- B. Kevin's reaction to unfamiliar adult—parent came to read books to the children. Kevin usually sits close to book and reader, but today he sat far from parent and stayed close to me.

3. Dress-Up

- A. Amy, Jamil, and Nora in dramatic play area. Very active. Love to explore their environment. Very cooperative. Like to play and explore a lot, but they especially love the dress-up clothes.
- B. Dramatic play area: Amy, Jamil, and Nora look through props and dress-up clothes. Try on dress-up clothes most of time in area. Talk about getting dressed up to go to a party—put on dresses, high heels, vest, bowtie—then look at themselves in mirror. Share dress-up clothes without conflicts. Play for 15 minutes.

Adapted from "Guidelines for Accurate and Objective Recording—Behavioral Descriptions", Learning from Assessment (LFA) Toolkit.

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For more information

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