



Learning Activity 3—Classroom Scenario

Activity Overview: In this practice activity, you will read a short classroom scenario. Then you will decide how the teacher might change her teaching to better help the children progress.

Directions: Read the following description of a classroom where sheets of labels are used to collect observations of children's behavior. How might the teacher change her teaching to better help the children progress in gross motor skill development?

Crystal is the teacher in a classroom of 20 children. She and her teacher aide Ellen use sheets of labels to write down their observations of children's behavior. Each column of labels is used for a different area of the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework. The children's names are pre-printed in each column so that Crystal and Ellen are sure to record an observation about each child in each area of learning. Crystal developed this method of collecting anecdotal records so that she can easily gather information for each child's monthly observation card. The labels are easy to remove from the label sheet and stick in the correct box on the observation card.

As Crystal and Ellen review the children's observation labels in the gross motor skill area, they notice that about a third of the children have not advanced in their ability to use objects such as catching balls. These children often drop balls during indoor games. They quickly lose interest in outdoor games using balls. Crystal and Ellen realize they need to change their teaching to help the children improve coordination to manipulate balls and other objects.

