



Methods of Observation

TYPE	DEFINITION	BEHAVIOR
Time Sampling	Determines the degree to which a behavior occurs by observing & recording the incidence of the behavior at specific time intervals.	Incidences of frequent behavior (e.g., hand flapping self-injurious behavior, vocalizing).
Event Sampling	Observation of an event that has been defined in advance and what occurs before and following the event.	Used to record children's person-social interactions with the teacher and other children to plan interventions.
Anecdotal Record	A descriptive narrative recorded after the behavior occurs.	Used to fully detail a certain event or behavior.
Journal	A recording of brief details about each child in a group after a behavior occurs.	Used to describe the status and progress of every child in a class over time.
Running Record	A sequential record recorded while the behavior is occurring.	Used to document what children are doing in the particular situation with focus on social or pre-academic activity.

Hills, T.W. (1992). In Bredekamp, S. & Roseground, T. (Eds.). *Reaching potential: Appropriate curriculum and assessment for young children* (Vol.1) (p.51). NAEYC: Washington, D.C.

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