

LOS ANGELES MISSION COLLEGE
CHILD DEVELOPMENT 34
Observing and Recording Children's Behavior
FALL 2013
INSTRUCTOR: RACHEL MERMELL

Section #3089

Monday 6:50 pm – 10:00 pm

CCDS 201

Office:

Hours: 6:20–6:50 pm – Adjunct faculty office

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Email: mermelrd@lamission.edu

Required Text:

Nilson, Week by Week Plans for Documenting Children's Development, Sixth Ed. 2013

Copple & Bredekamp, Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs, 3rd Ed. 2009

Course Description: (3units)

Students will learn the appropriate use of assessment and observation strategies to document development, growth, play and learning to join with families and professionals in promoting children's success. Recording strategies, rating systems, portfolios, and multiple assessment tools are explored.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will evaluate children's developmental progress using professionally recognized and accepted observation strategy.
2. Students will select an appropriate assessment tool based on the purpose of the assessment.
3. Students will apply the information gained from a professionally recognized assessment tool to design a developmentally appropriate program for a child, document their findings in writing, and make appropriate recommendations/follow-through plans.

Course Objectives:

1. Compare the purposes and value and use of formal and informal observation and assessment strategies.
2. Examine ethical implications of assessment within cultural and social contexts in early childhood settings.
3. Relate and apply NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct to observation and assessment of young children.
4. Evaluate the characteristics, strengths, and limitations of common observation methods and assessment tools with children's development, cultural and linguistic characteristics.
5. Compare and contrast systematic observation methods to provide data to assess the impact of the environment, interactions and curriculum on all domains of children's learning and development.
6. Compare the various approaches to assessment for relevance, applicability and purpose.
7. Select and apply a method of observation that fits a specific observation purpose.
8. Analyze and evaluate elements of an appropriate learning environment and its effect on the development of the child.

Special Requirements

Students must show proof of a current negative TB test (Mantoux Test) or chest X-ray within the last two years. The Department of Social Services Child Care Licensing Division and the Department of Health requires all individuals working with children in a paid or voluntary position to have a negative Mantoux or chest x-ray every two years.

Assignments

Only assignments of the highest quality will be accepted. All written assignments must be completed neatly in ink (blue and black). Type written by computer preferred. **NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Assignments may be turned in via email attachment.

Extra credit assignments will not be offered. You are expected to complete the work assigned.

Attendance:

Los Angeles Mission College attendance policies will be respected. Absences amounting to more than 6 hours will result in an "exclusion". Students are responsible for completion of necessary paperwork involving "withdrawals" and "drops". Students are expected to be punctual and come to class prepared.

Special Needs:

Students who require special consideration due to a recognized disability are asked to identify their need to the instructor at the completion of the first class meeting. Student and instructor will work together and discuss possible

adaptations and/or accommodations. Those students who choose not to identify their special learning needs will not receive special assignment consideration after the completion of the assignment(s).

Academic dishonesty – Board Rule 9803.28 - Plagiarism is the use of others' words and/or ideas without clearly acknowledging their source. When you incorporate those words and ideas into your own work, you must give credit where credit is due. Plagiarism, intentional or unintentional, is considered or cheating on assignments (e.g., copying or giving answers, using "crib" sheets, etc.) will (1) receive a zero (fail) on the assignment, and (2) be referred to the Vice President of Student Services for further disciplinary action, following due process. For further information on plagiarism go to the Writing Center website and refer to the STANDARDS OF STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION in the Current Schedule of Classes and the Catalog.

Assignments

Class List Log	10 pts
Anecdotal Records	20 pts
Check list	10 pts
Running Records	20 pts
Frequency Count	10 pts
Language	20 pts
Literacy Rating Scale	10 pts
Work Samples	20 pts
Setting Observation	20 pts
Portfolio and Plan	50 pts
Reflective Journals	50 pts
Quizzes (3)	30 pts
Participation	15 pts
Grand total	285 pts

Class List Log

10 pts

Fill out a class list (form will be provided) to record short pieces of information about each child present in the class. The list needs to include greetings, separation and self care.

Grading

- **Form needs to be filled out completely/thoughtfully**
- **Neatness**
- **No judgmental language**
- **Date and Time needs to be included**

Anecdotal Records

20 pts

Is a narrative account of an incident that indicates a child's development and is written shortly after a significant event. It can be an incident that indicates typical or atypical behavior of the child or even a humorous story. More importantly it needs the exact detail of how the incident occurred. The focus should be on one child. The paper needs to be approximately one page, typed or written in blue and black ink.

Grading

- **Neatness**
- **Detailed account**
- **No judgmental language**
- **Easy to follow**
- **Age of child must be included**
- **Quotes from Developmentally Appropriate Practice must be included**

Check list

10 pts

The checklist (form will be provided) is a predetermined list of criteria against which the recorder answers yes or no. You will use this on one child in the class. On the back of the page you will write a paragraph of what you learned about the child, due to the check list.

Grading

- **Neatness**
- **Form needs to be filled out completely and thoughtfully**
- **Analysis of the information that was provided from the check list.**

Running Records

20pts

Write a detailed account of a segment of the child's day, written as the incident is occurring. The running records (form will be provided) includes setting, descriptions of actions and interactions and exact quotes. You will focus on one child's social development.

Grading

- **Neatness**
- **Detailed account**
- **No judgmental language**
- **Easy to follow**
- **Age of child must be included**
- **Quotes from Developmentally Appropriate Practice must be included**

Frequency Count

10 pts

Measures repeated actions of a child, the whole group, or the teachers. You will fill out a frequency count (form will be provided) on a few children in the class on their pro-social and antisocial behavior in the class.

Grading

- **Neatness**
- **Form needs to be filled out completely/thoughtfully**

Speech and Language Checklist

20 pts

You will first take a language sample of one child and then fill out the speech and language checklist. You may tape the child talking or write down verbatim what the child is saying.

Grading

- **Neatness**
- **Form needs to be filled out completely/thoughtfully**
- **Quality of the analysis of the conversation**
- **Age of child must be included**

Literacy Rating Scale

10pts

The literacy rating scale assesses the interest, skill and knowledge of young children's reading and writing. You will watch one child and fill out the rating scale (form will be provided).

Grading

- **Neatness**
- **Form needs to be filled out completely/thoughtfully**
- **Age of child must be included**

Work Samples Checklist

20 pts

Collect four to five work samples from one child. After looking over the samples, fill out the work sample checklist (form is provided)

Grading

- **Neatness**
- **Form needs to be filled out completely/thoughtfully**
- **Three Work samples need to be attached to the checklist**
- **Age of child must be included**
- **Comments section must be complete for all areas.**

Setting Observation

20pts

Take a trip to a child-care center and fill out the setting observation form (form will be provided). No children need to present for the visit.

Grading

- **Neatness**
- **Form needs to be filled out completely/thoughtfully**
- **Analysis of your findings.**

Portfolio and Plan-Final

50 pts

You will create a portfolio for one child. The portfolios includes all methods of assessment and documentation that were presented in class (ie, running records, checklist, work samples, and anecdotal). After analyzing your findings from the portfolio, you will need to create a plan for the child. The plan needs to include social/emotional, cognitive, gross and fine motor development. You will present your plan in front of the class.

Grading

- **Neatness.**
- **Developmental Appropriate Plan**
- **Thoroughness of the portfolio**
- **Diversity of samples (3 different samples for each curricular area)**
- **Two Developmentally Appropriate Practices Quotes in each curricular area.**

Reflective Journals

50 pts

Writing in a journal where you answer reflective questions.

Grading

- **Writing weekly**

Quizzes (3)**10 pts each**

Three pop quizzes will be given throughout the semester. The quizzes will be on terms and definitions that are presented in the textbook.