

Assignment 3: Middle Childhood Observation (6-12 Years Old)

READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS AND QUESTIONS BEFORE BEGINNING. You may find it helpful to print out this page.

For this assignment, you have the choice to interview and observe a child who is between 6-12 years old. Review the [grading rubrics](#) for this assignment. This will help you know how much information to add to each section of your report and will maximize the chance to earn full credit for this assignment.

Below you will find a link to a sample observation. Please note that this is a sample to help you with formatting and the content may differ from what is required in this assignment.

[Sample Middle Childhood Observation](#)

General Directions

Make arrangements to spend time interviewing and observing a child between the ages of 6-12 years old. The more information you can get from the child, the easier it will be for you to answer the post-interview questions. Suggested interview questions are listed below. Feel free to elaborate on them and add your own questions. Most children this age like to be asked their opinions and are glad to find an adult who is interested in what they think.

If the child you interview is completely unresponsive (does not answer your questions), you may need to find another child to interview.

Suggested Interview Questions:

1. What is your first name? How old are you? What grade are you in?
2. What is your favorite show to watch?
3. How much time do you spend on a screen each day which includes time on a computer, tablet, video game, or phone screen? What activities are you doing on these devices?
4. Are there rules in your house about how much time you are allowed to be on a screen? If so what are they? What happens if you break the rule?
5. Tell me about your brothers and sisters, if you have any. How old are they? Do you play together a lot? What things do you like to play with them? Do you ever fight with your brothers/sisters? What do you fight about?
6. Do you and your family get to do things together? What kinds of things do you like to do best?
7. Tell me about your friends. Do you have a best friend? What do you like to do together? What happens if you and your friend disagree about something?
8. Do you have a favorite teacher? Please describe why this person is a favorite. Can you describe a teacher you don't think is very good?
9. What do you like best about school? What makes it that interesting for you?
10. What do you find the most challenging about school? What do you like the least? Tell me why you do not like this or why it is such a challenge?

11. Are there any crafts or hobbies you enjoy? What outdoor games/activities or sports do you like to participate in?
12. Do you feel you have grown a lot since last year?
13. What are some of the safety rules that you keep in mind when you are at home and outside of the home?
14. Can you share any memories from when you were in preschool or kindergarten?
15. If you think back a few years, can you think of something you believed in that you now think is silly?
16. What do you think is the biggest problem in the world?
17. If you could meet anyone in the world, whom would you like to meet?
18. If you had one wish, what would it be?

Writing Your Report

Your report should be between 4-6 pages long, not including the cover or reference page.

Organize your paper by including the cover page first. Each section should have a heading name.

For full credit, make sure to connect your responses to following questions with information presented in the course textbook, videos, and additional resources. Use multiple sources to back up your thoughts and observations. Be as specific as possible and cite your resources within each section of your report using APA format.

Cover Page:

Add a cover-page to your paper that follows APA guidelines.

Section 1: Summary Description

Include a description of the child including their name or initial. Describe their physical appearance and your impressions of their demeanor (are they happy, shy, outgoing, active...etc..). Compare the child's description to the information presented in our textbook and course videos.

Provide a description of the setting in which the observation took place and the people present. State your relationship with the child if you know them.

Include a brief summary of your interview and general impressions of the observation.

Make sure to connect your responses with information presented in the text and class videos. This section should include 2 or more citations from the course textbook, course videos, or additional resources in APA format.

Section 2: Cognitive and Language Development

Reflect on what you learned about the child's cognitive and language skills. Think about things like communication style, attention, focus, memory, problem solving, and school related abilities.

What stage of cognitive development do you think the child is in? Did you find any remnants of preoperational thinking? Evidence of concrete operational thinking?

What do you notice about the child's language skills or communication with you and others? What other cognitive skills did you notice or expect at this age?

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Connect the child's cognitive and language development to the middle childhood information presented in our course materials. Be as specific as possible and provide examples.

This section should include 2 or more citations from the course textbook, course videos, or additional resources in APA format.

Section 3: Social and Emotional Development

Reflect on what you learned about the child's social, emotional, and identity development. Think about what is expected for this age group.

What types of play does this child engage in? How would you describe the child's friendships and peer groups? What about their overall social and emotional skills? How would you describe the child's school experience? Do you think the child has a positive sense of identity? Are they struggling with anything? How might their peers and parents influence their sense of self and overall social and emotional development?

Connect the child's social, emotional, and identity development to the middle childhood information presented in our course materials. Be as specific as possible and provide examples.

This section should include 2 or more citations from the course textbook, course videos, or additional resources in APA format.

Section 4: Physical Development

Reflect on the child's physical appearance and skills. Think about how they can use their hands or bodies to accomplish things or manipulate their environment.

How would you describe the child's physical development as related to the information presented in the course materials? Do you think their fine motor and gross motor skills are developing as expected? Provide examples from your observation. What did the child indicate about their physical growth and motor (fine or large) activities they enjoy? Did the child mention any physical changes they have observed in their own bodies? Does the child have awareness of physical safety? Please describe. Does there appear to be rules or guidelines established by their caregivers? If so, what are they?

What can you infer about the child's nutrition and sleep based on the observation?

Connect the child's physical development to the middle childhood information presented in our course materials. Be as specific as possible and provide examples.

This section should include 2 or more citations from the course textbook, course videos, or additional resources in APA format.

Section 5: Reflection

What are your overall impressions about the child you observed? Do you think you were similar to this child when you were the same age? How so, or not? Use examples from your interview and provide details.

How did the presented information on middle childhood development and the requirements of this assignment change or deepen your understanding and expectations of youth at this age? What theories or course content were most useful in your learning? Be specific. Provide examples.

How will you or might you use these new or deeper understandings and expectations in your practice with or parenting of middle childhood?

Connect your learning from this assignment to the information presented in our course materials. This section should include 2 or more citations from the course textbook, course videos, or additional resources in APA format.

Section 6: References (separate page)

Please provide a reference page for all references used in your paper. Use your Concise Guide to APA Style 7th edition to learn how to format citations and references in APA format.

End of Middle Childhood Observation