

FIELD OBSERVATION

The purpose of this assignment is to gain direct experience with a common method of data collection in the field of developmental psychology, while you acquaint yourself with the terms and concepts found in your text. By completing the assignment, utilizing the text as your primary resource in interpreting your observations, you will have begun an initial study and preparation for examination. You will be conducting naturalistic observation of children in the “field” at various stages of development. Ages may range from birth to 17 years. You are to examine two (2) children. They may be the same or different ages, genders or ethnicities. You are to describe their behavior within the context of the theories below, and compare and contrast their cognitive, physiological and psychosocial presentations and issues.

The paper must be typed, and should answer the following:

- 1. Briefly describe the age, sex, ethnicity and situation you observed. Using objective language, briefly describe what took place.**
- 2. What observations would a Psychoanalytic theorist make and what would be the focus in this example? How would the sequence of observed events be explained?**
- 3. What observations would a Behavioral psychologist make and what would be the focus in this example? How would the sequence of observed events be explained? Did specific things occur which would make a behavior more likely to occur in the future or less likely?**
- 4. On what would a Cognitive Theorist focus on? Why?**
- 5. Discuss the focus of an additional theorist or concept you may have noticed illustrated based on your readings.**
E.g. Bronfenbrenner, Vygotsky, Seligman, language acquisition, developmental or cognitive levels of play, gender identity awareness, etc.