

PARTICIPATION IN PLAY – OBSERVATION SHEET

Child's Name: _____

Age: _____

Types of Play	Stages of Play
Sensory play : Explore environment using their senses.	Unoccupied play : Basic movements to interact with environment, typical for babies.
Cause-effect play : Enjoy control and effect of own actions, e.g., press button, insert ball.	Solitary play : Play alone with little interest in others and what they're doing.
Functional play : Use toys in way they were designed to, e.g., push car, phone to ear.	Onlooker play : Show interest in others' play, and observe different play practices.
Constructive play : Build or create products, e.g., puzzle, block tower, drawing picture.	Parallel play : Play near others with similar toys, but minimal or no interaction.
Physical play : Engage in whole-body movement, e.g., running, rough-&-tumble play.	Associative play : Share, negotiate, copy, and work with others, but no shared goal yet.
Pretend play : Use imagination to pretend, e.g., feed teddy, row 'boat', role-play.	Cooperative play : Coordinated play with others, with assigned roles and shared goals.

Observations		
Type & stage of play	Items or persons chosen	Description of their play How did they play with this item/person? What exactly did they do during this play experience?

Interpretation What was noticed in your observations?

Types of play	Stages of play	Preferred items and people	Preferred way to engage with these

Next type or stage of play to develop:

What play or social skill would be a suitable next step?

Skills needed for this new play or social skill:

What underlying skills does this form of play require?

Child's strengths & interests we can tap into:

What are they good at? What will motivate them to engage?

Educator scaffolding: What resources and strategies could enable us to join in, and extend their play? How will we support skill development, and reinforce positive social interactions?

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