

Observation types.

Narrative writing- This form of observation records everything the child is doing in the type period you observe. It is a very detailed form of observation and can focus on different developments. The advantages of this- Very detailed, focus on all behaviour and developments, simple and easy to carry out. The disadvantages of this- time consuming. The worker has to be focused on the one child, taking focus away from everyone else. Works well to observe an individual child, not groups.

Time sampling is when you observe a child at a certain time, such as snack time - you can find out what the child's social skills are like, what their fine manipulative skills are like and how much they eat.

Duration observing- This form of observation allows you to establish how much time a child spends at certain activities. It can also be used for group of children for example friends going around different activities, whether they split up and go to other activities. It records how long the children are at the activities. This shows their interests as they play and can help future planning.

Targeted child- This form of observation is used when there is a concern about a child, for example delayed development, behaviour issues and speech. The observations are carried over a period of time. The observation is focused on one child.

Audio/ video- This form of observation allows discussions and actions to be recording. Teachers are able to also look back over them. They can be used to observe behaviour or speech. It is important to ensure children are developing with their speech and behaviour concerns are picked up.

Observations have 2 different styles where the teacher is included in the activities or they sit back and not get involved, allowing them to mainly focus on the observation.

- [1]- Sometimes practitioners can use the wrong observation style. This can affect the support given to a child and they may get marked as being more developed under a development stage, than the level they actually are as each style of observation is based around different developmental areas. These mean practitioners may want to look at their behaviour in which they would have to use time sampling but may use tracking observation which is based on social development and language.