

## CD 44 ASSIGNMENTS

### **A - Special Education Program Observation - 45 pts**

Contact an educational program that provides services to exceptional young children.

It needs to be a program that only serves children with exceptional needs. The

observation is NOT an inclusive class. It has to be 100% special education.

Utilize the valuable resources at your table (your classmates) in selecting a program.

Observe the program and answer the following **8 questions**: Please type all the questions before you answer them. Each example used to answer the question has to be VERY specific/descriptive/objective.

DO NOT VISIT THE CLASS DURING RECESS TIME OR NAP TIME.

*\*\*\*Please make sure you don't include any personal information about the subjects being observed.*

### **Questions:**

#### **1. Name and address of the program:**

1.1 Population served

1.2 Ages served.

1.3 Time of observation

1.4 Length of observation:

1.5 Number of adults

1.6 Number of children.

#### **2. Physical environment:**

2.1 Describe the type of equipment in the classroom: (furniture or any other special equipment).

2.2 Can this room accommodate children in wheelchairs? Why? Why not?

2.3. List the type of educational materials you observed the children using in the classroom.

2.4 Are any activities being observed especially accommodating to serve these children with exceptional needs?

2.5 Describe the attractiveness, colors, wall displays, illumination in the room

### **The children in the program: Observe the 4 developmental domains:**

#### **3. Physical domain:**

3.1- 3.2 Describe children's physical skills (gross and fine motor) (i.e. Were most of the children ambulatory, did they all have appropriate coordination and balance?

3.3 How did they explore the environment? (i.e. Use of walkers, wheelchairs, etc...)

#### **4. Socio-emotional domain:**

4.1 What types of play did you observe? (Solitary, parallel, onlooker, associative and/or cooperative). Provide examples to support your answer.

4.2 Overall, did you see observe one type of play being more or less prevalent than others? Provide 2 examples. If not, describe what you observed

4.3 How do the children interact with the adults? Provide 2 examples

4.4 How do the adults interact with the children? Provide 2 examples

4.5 How did the children express their feelings (anger, frustration, sadness)? Provide 2 examples

**5. Cognitive domain:**

5.1 What did you see the children learning? (math, language, science, etc)  
Provide 2 examples

5.2 How do they learn? (Hands on experience, listening, demonstration, experimenting, etc..?)

**6. Language development:**

6.1 **Expressive:** How do the children express themselves? (using sign language, pointing, nodding, equipment, single or complex sentences?)  
Provide 2 examples

6.2 **Receptive:** Are the children able to understand a basic conversation?  
Provide 1 example

6.3 Are the children able to follow one or two step commands?  
Provide 1 example

**7. Possible Improvements** Would you suggest any changes or improvements for the class that you observed? If, yes explain and be specific.  
If not, explain what the teachers should continue doing. **Be specific.**

**8. Personal experience:**

Write a short paragraph explaining what you have learned by doing this observation.

**OBSERVATION PROCEDURES:**

- Do not go to your class observation site with a cold or any other infectious illness. Call the center and request to reschedule the observation.
- Arrive 5 to 10 minutes before the scheduled time to observe the classroom.
- Sign in on the daily signature form (Time in and time out)
- While you are in the room, maintain as quiet as possible but stay close enough to hear and see what is going on. Remember, you are an observer! Do not encourage any talking with the children or teachers (Try to be invisible)
- Please turn off your cell phone and **DO NOT use your phone** while you are doing the observation!
- Bring into the classroom the least personal belongings possible. (your keys & note taking material only) If you have to take a purse, please keep it close to you so children will not have easy access to it.
- If you are observing in the same classroom and at the same time as another student, do not sit together. Avoid conversations, comments or laughing.
- **Do not discuss the children and their behavior in or outside the classroom. The observation is personal and confidential.**
- At your departure please, remember to thank the teachers and/or any other staff.
- At the end of the observation, have the supervising teacher or Director sign the observation letter. Keep the visitor sticker and attach it to your signed letter.
- **Attach the letter with the visitor's sticker to your typed paper.**

**B. Agency research - 25 points**

Identify and visit **IN PERSON** an agency (not a school program) which provides services to children with exceptional needs. Some examples of agencies are: **California Children services, In home supportive services (IHSS), United Cerebral Palsy, Social Security Income, Family resource centers from regional centers, Exceptional children Foundation etc.** The following website will help you to find an agency according to city or zip code: **www.healthcity.org**.

Make sure you select an agency which serves children with exceptional needs.

**Visit the agency and gather the following information:**

Please be specific when answering the questions & make sure you use your own words when you answer all the questions.

- 1) Name and location of the agency.
- 2) Does the agency have any other branches in California?
- 3) How is the agency being funded? (federal, state private funding?)
- 4) Type of services being provided. **Be specific and describe them**
- 5) Population being served.(disabilities, ages) **Be specific**
- 6) Qualifications to receive services **Be specific**
- 7) Cost of services (if any) **Be specific**
- 8) How to apply or request services. **Be specific**
- 9) Do you consider these services helpful? Why?
- 10) Do you think the general population is typically aware of the services provided by this agency? Yes/No why?

**\*\*\*\*\*Make sure you attach a brochure of the agency to your paper.**

**C. Special Ed. Research Paper - 70 points** (60= paper /10 = presentation)

You will choose a specific syndrome/disability to be researched.

This is an academic paper to be researched and presented with other classmates from this course.

Make sure you use your own words when writing this paper. If you need to use the same words found in a book, then use the **APA style for citations. Please visit the library and/or the LAVC writing center** to review your paper or learn about the APA style.

Your paper should be organized as follows:

**Introduction** section:

- 1) History of the syndrome (when it was discovered, how, by whom, where?)
- 2) Cause of the syndrome (genetic, environmental, trauma, etc..) Explain and be specific.
- 3) How can the syndrome be diagnosed?
- 4) What periods of development are especially crucial?

**Research section:** summarize the research findings and state how the research relates to the questions below:

- 1) What are the characteristics and symptoms of this syndrome?
- 2) Is this a syndrome that can be prevented? If, yes, How?  
If you answer no, Are there any research studies, clinical studies addressing possible causes or cures?  
\*\*\*Remember to use your sources as support to your claims & cite those sources.
- 3) What is the prognosis? (is there a cure, can it be improved, does it get worse, short life?, etc..)
- 4) What types of services could children benefit from receiving?
- 5) What does the research demonstrate has been done to minimize the impact of that disability?
- 6) **Mainstreaming and special education:** What evidence is there that mainstreaming helps children? What evidence is there that it does not?

**Opinion:**

- 1) Connect the findings to your questions (remember to use quotations or if using author's idea write author's name in parenthesis). Indicate which sources you agree with and which you don't and why.
- 2) What important questions related to your topic remain unanswered?

**All questions must be answered in the format of a research paper. (i.e. using complete sentences & paragraphs) support your claims and answers by citing your resources.**

**Bibliography:** All the books and journals used for your paper should be listed alphabetically in a bibliography on the last page of your paper.

Please use APA format to list your bibliography.

i.e. **Bibliography:** Allen, D., Cowdery, G. (2005), The Exceptional Child. Inclusion in Early Childhood Education, New York, Delmar Learning

\*\*You should consult a total of **4 different sources** ( textbooks, clinical books and/or journal articles.) **Sources should have been published within the last 5 years.**

Additionally, find **one relevant source published within the last year.**

Then, use your research information to answer the 6 questions listed above.

If you use any information from a website, make sure it is a website from a university, hospital or professional journal.

**A maximum of 2 websites are allowed to be used on this research paper.**

☺ **General guidelines for all assignments:** ☺

- 1- **All work must be** computer generated- Use the writing lab/center if you need computer access.
- 2- Please re-read and edit your work before submitting –**Points will be deducted for Grammar/spelling or punctuation errors.**- Use the writing center for assistance
- 3- **Bold or underline questions/headings**
- 4- use 12 point font
- 5- Double space
- 6- Black ink ONLY
- 7- **Include a title page.** Title page should include the following:  
Title of assignment, name of course, instructor's name, student's name, section number, hour & day of class, date.
- 8- You MUST STAPLE your papers. please, DO NOT SUBMIT anything in a FOLDER.

☹☹☹\*\*\*\*Failure to do the above will bring point deductions\*\*\*\*☹☹☹

**\*\*\*\*\* Remember NO late papers please!**

**Also, you MUST bring to class your printed paper. I cannot print out any e-mailed documents.**

Spring 2010

**To: School or Program Director/ Supervisor**

I would like to request permission for \_\_\_\_\_ a student at Los Angeles Valley College enrolled in a Child Development course to observe your **exceptional needs program/ special education classroom**. This will be an observation report for a required class project only. The student will just observe the children for about 90 minutes during in class activities/free play.

Your assistance will be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for supporting our future and current educators in the field of exceptional needs.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leonor Vazquez, Ed.D.

Los Angeles Valley College  
Child Development Department  
[vazquele@lavc.edu](mailto:vazquele@lavc.edu)

\_\_\_\_\_  
**To the Teacher or Director:** Please sign in the space to indicate that the student observed in a classroom designed **only** for children with exceptional needs (not an inclusive classroom). Thank you!

Date:

Time in:

Time out:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher or Director's signature

Contact Phone # \_\_\_\_\_