380 APPENDIX D: Observation Forms

Source: Nilsen, B. (1996). Week by Week: Plans for Observing & Recording Young Children. Albany, NY: Delmar

Child's Name	Dates
	COMMENTS
Separation Separates from adult to do creative work alone Works independently without requiring adult presence or direction	
Self-Care Independently selects materials Makes preparations to work (Example: Puts on a smock) Uses materials independently Cleans up spills, messes Writes name on work Places finished product in proper place Washes and dries hands if necessary Replaces materials to storage place	
Physical Development Controls whole body movement during work Controls small muscles to hold tool Controls tool to form desired product Draws, prints, paints, pastes Squeezes glue bottle Picks up collage materials Manipulates clay or Play Doh Cuts with scissors Controls body to stay within the space (on the paper, building on a rug	, clay on table)
Social Skills Represents important people in life and work Desires and can work near other children Shares materials and supplies Engages in positive commentary on other children's work Works cooperatively on a joint project	
Emotional Development Uses art work to express emotions of happiness, anger, fear Verbalizes feelings about work Enjoys manipulation and creation Controls emotions of frustration when work meets difficulties Uses the media as a stress release, pounding clay, tearing paper, paintin	g
Speech and Language Development Names scribbles, buildings, creations Talks about work using vocabulary connected with art materials and des Uses language to describe process, intent, and satisfaction with product	

COMMENTS
emory and Attention Span Includes details in art from memories of experiences Focuses attention on project to produce a finished work Tunes out distractions of simultaneous play, talk, and work Gives attention and makes connections between designs, colors, patterns in environment, and own work
Includes numerals and quantity in work Shows one-to-one correspondence in work designs Shows perceptual awareness of color, space, form Explores cause and effect and experimentation with variables in art media (Example: Sees differences in paint when water and sand are added) Observes similarities and differences, forming theories and testing them out by manipulating the medium Working with clay or liquid—displays knowledge of the concept of conservation (volume stays the same even though form changes—ball flattened is the same amount)
eracy Includes alphabet letters in art work Recognizes the difference between drawing and writing Uses creative products as symbols of ideas Work illustrates or connects with stories Gives attention to art in story books and knows the difference between text and illustrations
Uses materials in a novel way, displaying flexibility in seeing new possibilities in materials Explores all facets of the medium Draws from experiences to create representations Incorporates creativity into other areas of play, constructing with blocks, drawing and constructing in dramatic play, forming designs in sand and other medium Demonstrates creativity in secondary awareness (seeing, hearing, touching, smelling, tasting)
Displays risk-free attitude in work Reveals self in content of work Work shows a sense of identity and individuality Expresses satisfaction in art work, confident self-esteem Portrays self, family, world in creative work Work demonstrates child's sex-role identification Work shows child moving from egocentric view of self to an awareness of self as part of larger society Indicates favorite art medium (singular), media (plural)
 oup Time Behaviors Participates in cooperative and collaborative work

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