Name_____ Date_____ Class Hour_____

Preschool Observation Packet:
Checklist: Preschooler Development

Purpose: To identify developmental changes during the preschool stage

Part I. Directions: Observe a child who is three, four, or five years old. Your observation should last at least one hour but may be continued over several visits. Look for signs of development listed below and on the next page. Record your findings by placing a check mark in the appropriate column. If you had no opportunity to observe a particular behavior, write "Unable to observe" in the "comments" column. Also use this column to record any additional details you wish to remember.

Key to Responses
Yes- Skill observed   **No-** Child showed lack of this skill or characteristics

Site:_____ Date(s) of Observation(s)_____

Child's Name:_____ Age_____

Signs of Development	Yes	No	Comments
Physical Development			
1. Walks down stairs. (Describe how)			
2. Easily changes directions while running.			
3. Throws a ball. (Describe how)			
4. Catches a ball.(Describe how)			
5. Skips			
6. Stacks seven or more blocks. (Note number)			
7. Draws recognizable shapes.			

	Yes	No	Comments
8. Draws recognizable pictures.			
9. Draws some alphabet letters.			
10. Cuts with scissors.			
11. Buttons clothing.			

Signs of Development	Yes	No	Comments
Intellectual Development			
12. Demonstrates imagination and symbolic thought (for example, uses a stuffed animal as a "baby" or pretends a tricycle is a car).			
13. Sorts objects by one variable, such as color.			
14. Groups objects by size.			
15. Counts by rote. (Not highest number recited in sequence)			
16. Counts three objects accurately.			
17. Applies grammar rules, even when inappropriate (may say "foots" or "breaked").			

Signs of Development	Yes	No	Comments
Social Development			
18. Plays in groups of two or three.			
19. Plays in groups of four to eight.			
20. Joins in activities suggested by others.			
21. Suggests activities.			
22. Plays cooperatively with others.			
23. Refers to one or more "best friends."			
24. Shares willingly.			
25. Shows awareness of differences between boys and girls.			
26. Shows awareness of racial or ethnic differences.			

Signs of Development	Yes	No	Comments
Emotional Development			
27. Shows some self-control (for example, says "I want that" instead of grabbing toy from another child).			
28. Shows some empathy for others (for example, comforts child who is sad)			
29. Shows pride in abilities by demonstrating them to others.			
30. Willingly helps with chores.			

Signs of Development	Yes	No	Comments
Moral Development			
31. Indicates awareness that certain actions result in reward or punishment.			
32. Shows signs of guilt after misbehavior.			
33. Tells adults when someone breaks a rule.			

Part II. Directions: Summarize your observations by answering the following questions in the space provided.

34. In what ways did the child you observed seem typical of this age group?

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35. Did any of the child's behavior seem unusual for this age? Explain.

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36. Has this observation experience helped you better understand preschoolers? Why or why not?

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Part III. Checklist: Self-Concept & Self-Esteem

Date(s) of Observation(s): _____ **Child's Name:** _____ **Age:** _____

Characteristics	YES	NO	Comments
37. Knows personal name and gender.			
38. Identifies things he or she can do.			
39. Appears to enjoy playing alone as well as with others.			
40. Shows respect for own rights.			
41. Shows respect for rights of others.			
42. Smiles & laughs frequently.			
43. Compares self favorably to others.			
44. Appears to enjoy learning & performing new skills.			
45. Shows confidence when learning new tasks.			
46. Has patience with self when learning new tasks.			
47. Accepts positive comments from others.			
48. Speaks well of self.			
49. Shows pride in friends and/or family.			
50. Maintains eye contact with others.			
51. Appears to enjoy performing self-help skills.			

Part IV. Anecdotal Record: Observing Young Children

Purpose: Describe and analyze an incident involving a preschool child.

Directions: Observe a child age three, four, or five in a child care program or other setting. As you do, look for a specific incident that interests you. Provide as much detail as you can. Describe where and when the incident took place, who was involved, and what was said and done. Include details about tone of voice, body movements, and facial expressions. If necessary, continue your description on another sheet of paper.

Date of Observation: _____

Name(s) and Age(s) of Child(ren) Involved: _____

52. Please describe the incident in detail:

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Part V. Guided Observation: Sharpening Your Skills

Purpose: Practice & evaluate basic observation skills

Directions: Developing observation skills is an ongoing process. Select a situation around you to observe. It can involve children but doesn't need to. Spend 10 minutes intently observing. Use the keys to good observation: make the decision to watch; look for details; listen as well as look; and ignore distractions. You can take brief notes as you observe. Then answer the following questions.

Date of Observation: _____

Situation Observed: _____

53. Describe in detail what you saw during your observation time:

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54. What did you hear during the time you observed this situation? Include any important direct quotes.

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Analyzing Your Observation

55. Read through your responses to questions 53 and 54. Were you able to see, hear, or remember the detail that you expected? Why or why not?

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56. Identify at least three ways you could sharpen your observation skills.

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