

Observation Report

Name of Student

Department of Social Sciences. Lake Washington Institute of Technology

Psyc&200 Lifespan Development

Prof. N. Yadav

April 18, 2024

Observation Report

Before initiating the observation, I acquired consent from the teachers and the parents to be able to be in the daycare setting for about 30 to 40 minutes.

“During this period, the primary focus is on the child's regular interaction with fellow classmates at school” (McLeod, 2023). Despite being unfamiliar with these children, they seem unaffected by my presence. Most of my observations occurred during the ‘show and tell activity’ which provided insight into how 4- 5-year-old children interact and display their emerging leadership skills. Throughout this experience, I noticed that most children behave well, show respect, and treat each other with kindness. “During stage 3, children should be given opportunities to accomplish specific tasks independently” (Maree, 2021). While presenting, some children successfully fulfill the requirements of the activity. They were able to talk about their favorite toys and explain why those toys helped significance for them. However, a few children required guidance and assistance from the teachers to stay on track. Nonetheless I observed that the children expressed themselves effectively. After the presentations, the children have the chance to share their toys with one another period it was heartening to witness the kids playing together without any apparent bias or division. They displayed inclusiveness and kindness towards each other, engaging in play with little hindrance.

I was pleasantly surprised by what I observed, as children of that age often engage in frequent arguments and tantrums during play. It was refreshing to witness a lot of laughter, kindness, sharing, and interaction among the children. However, there was one child who had a tantrum and went through his toy car, resulting in reprimand. Overall, I noticed a variety of behaviors and actions, many of which I anticipated based on the behaviors of my nephew and younger cousin, who are currently going through early childhood development. Their behavior closely resembled those of the children I observed. Boys typically have a shorter attention span compared to girls (Riley et al., 2016). After a few minutes, boys often become restless and find it challenging to maintain focus. Additionally, there was a significant amount of imaginative play and role-playing. Girls of this age tend to create make-believe lives for their dolls, often playing house and assuming roles such as mommy, sister or referring to their dolls as their babies. They even exhibited animism, attributing lifelike characteristics to inanimate objects. I have fond memories of playing house as a child, as it was one of my favorite activities. The children were active, inquisitive, and imaginative and displayed appropriate responses. Their behavior and interactions align with what I have learned from my readings. In terms of physical appearance, I noticed most of them had similar weight and heights. However, one of the boys appeared to be on the heavier side and slightly shorter, which resulted in him being a bit slower compared to other

children overall I thoroughly enjoyed this experience and assignment. It was both interesting and enjoyable to observe the children and their interactions.

References:

- Maree, J. G. (2021). The psychosocial development theory of Erik Erikson: critical overview. *Early Child Development and Care*, 191(7–8), 1107–1121.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/03004430.2020.1845163>
- McLeod, S. (2023, February 24). Eric Erickson's 8 stages of Psychosocial Development. Simply Psychology. <https://www.simplypsychology.org/erik-erikson.html#:~:text=Erikson's%20theory%20outlines%208%20stages,will%2C%20purpose%2C%20and%20integrity.>
- Riley E, Okabe H, Germine L, Wilmer J, Esterman M, et al. (2017) Correction: Gender Differences in Sustained Attentional Control Relate to Gender Inequality across Countries. PLOS ONE 12(1): e0170876. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0170876>