



# Recording Observations in Early Childhood Classrooms

By Successful Solutions Training in Child  
Development



What is the purpose of recording observations?

Recording observations gives you information about the children so that you can make plans to support their development in your classroom.




Observing children is the first step that leads to recording what you see. After that, you will be able to use the information for various purposes.




First, your observation and goal of the observation should dictate your record keeping strategies.



An illustration of a classroom scene. On the left, a female teacher with dark skin, wearing a grey vest over a white shirt and a yellow skirt, stands with one hand on her hip and the other pointing upwards. In the center, a large speech bubble contains text. On the right, a young girl with brown hair and a pink bow, wearing a pink dress, stands with her arms raised. Behind her is an easel with a canvas showing abstract red circles and green and blue lines. A yellow palette and a pencil are on the easel's ledge. Two crumpled white paper balls are on the floor. In the background, there are shelves with art supplies like paint jars and a water bottle.

I would observe Bethany in the art area working on open-ended art. It also looks like this is her third attempt at her art.



An illustration of a classroom scene. On the left, a female teacher with dark skin, wearing a grey blazer over a white shirt and a yellow skirt, stands next to a stack of blue books. She is pointing her right index finger towards a large speech bubble. In the center, a young girl with light skin and brown hair tied with a pink bow stands with her arms raised. To the right, there is an easel with a canvas showing a drawing of red circles and green and blue lines. On the easel's shelf are a yellow paint palette and two pencils. Two white crumpled paper balls are on the floor near the easel. A large speech bubble originates from the girl, containing text about adapting the art area.

I may also adapt the art area in response to this observation. Perhaps different materials and tools would be helpful.

She is adding this observation to her previous notes about Bethany and her development so this observation is not considered in isolation.

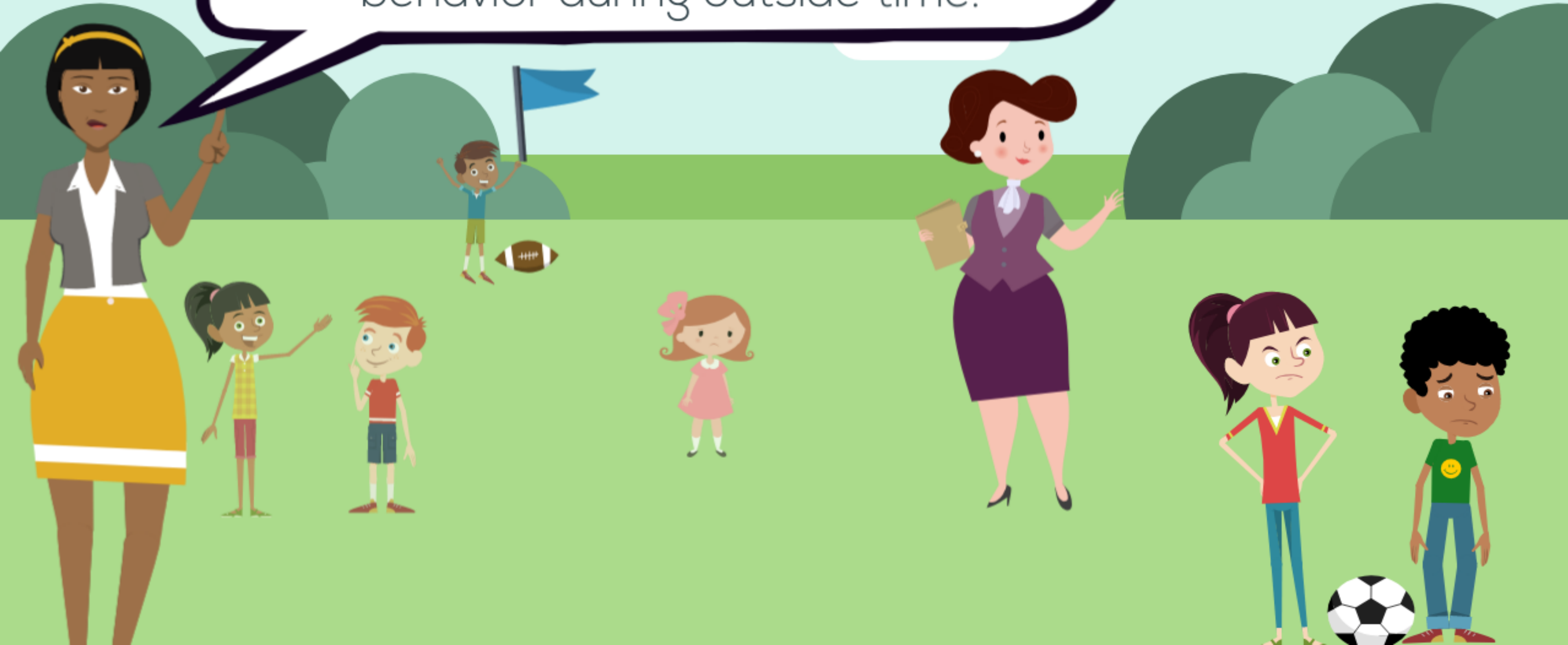


These observations will also help  
Bethany's teacher decide what  
observations or assessments are  
needed next.





Their teacher is struggling to understand what causes Shelby's aggression so she is observing her behavior during outside time.



In this situation, their teacher is able to record that Shelby is upset with Amir because of a game of soccer.





During outside time, Shelby became visibly upset with Amir when they were playing soccer. This occurs regularly during outside time but not in the classroo





Now, let's go over  
ways to record your  
observations.

She seems to be so  
interactions during outside  
when there is a game involved.



# Types of Records

**Running Records - Where you record a detailed narrative account of your observations.**

*"Bethany held the small paintbrush. She struggled to use it to scoop the paint and put it on the paper. Eventually, she worked through her challenges and chose a paintbrush with a thicker handle. She completed a painting in ab*





# Types of Records

**Anecdotal Records - A brief narrative of a specific behavior that is recorded as a child is being observed.**

*"Bethany had challenges using smaller paintbrushes in the art area. She became frustrated at first, worked through it, and created a painting."*



# Types of Records

**Time Sampling** - When you record the frequency of a behavior occurring over time (usually in one day).

11:05am

*"Bethany threw the paintbrush down twice during art time."*

11:12am

*"Bethany refused to complete her painting and began crying."*



# Types of Records

**Event Sampling - Short observations of a child's responses during a certain situation.**

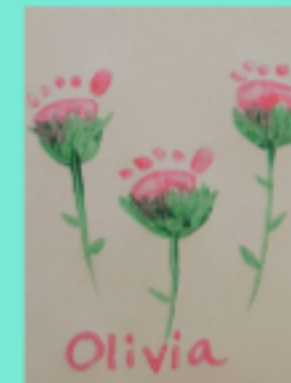
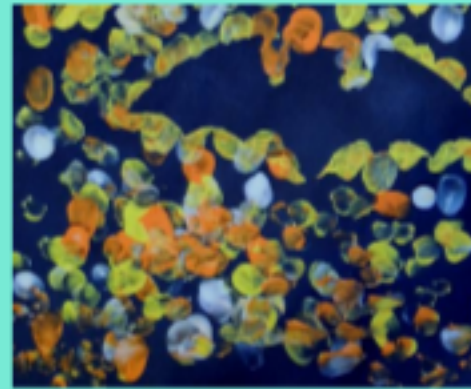
*Wednesday*

*"In the art area, Bethany was visibly upset with Silas and asked a teacher for help."*



# Types of Records

**Work samples - A collection of children's work.**



# Types of Records

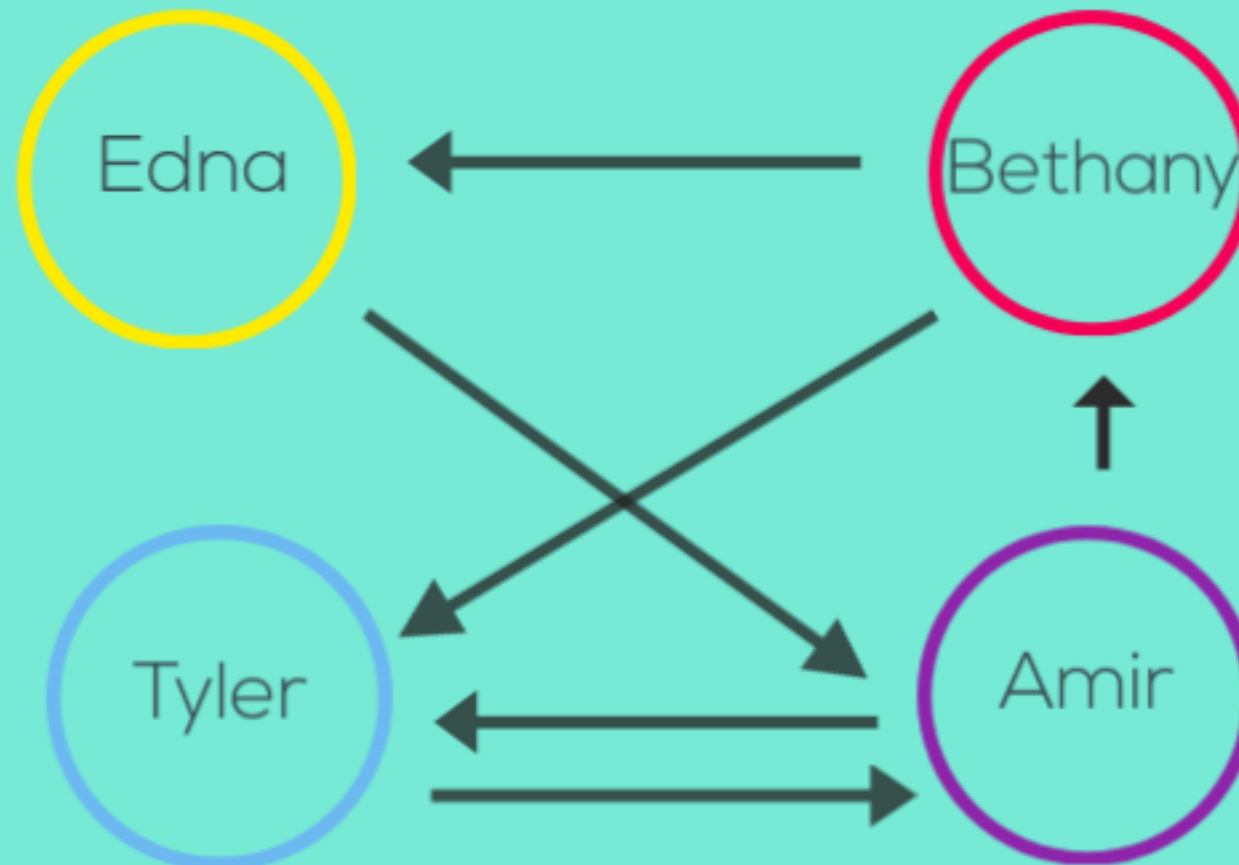
**Photographs - Photos showing children working on an activity, participating in a lesson, or using new skills.**





# Types of Records

**Sociograms - A diagram of a child's interactions within a group of other children.**



# Types of Records

**Notes - Quick notes that are jotted down about an observation of a child or situation.**

- Bethany used a new paintbrush during art today.
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# References

Different Types Of Observation Methods by Aussie Childcare Network; <https://aussiechildcarenetwork.com.au/articles/childcare-programming/different-types-of-observation-methods>

Documenting Children Types/Samples by Connect FDC, Connecting Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities; <http://connectfdc.com.au/wp-content/uploads/Documenting-Childrens-Learning-Examples.pdf?78687e>