Collecting Data Using Time Sampling Observation

Conduct a 20–30 minute time sampling observation. You may observe your family or friends, or with permission from a child’s teacher, you may observe a child in an early childhood classroom. To complete your observation, follow the steps below, then answer the reflection questions that follow.

1. Print the Time Sampling Record Sheet provided at the end of this lesson.

2. Decide whom you will observe. Describe here.

3. Decide what behavior you are going to observe (choose only one behavior that is likely to occur at least a few times during your observation). Describe here.

4. Decide which type of time sampling you will do (whole-interval, partial-interval, momentary). Describe here.

5. Decide how long you are going to observe (should be 20–30 minutes). Describe here.

6. Find a place where you can comfortably see the child you have decided to observe. Describe here.
7. Fill out the top portion of the Time Sampling Record Sheet, including the date, time, and behavior that you will be observing.

8. As you observe, make tally marks in the appropriate box if the behavior occurs during that interval.

Reflection Questions

9. How did it go? What worked well, and what did not work well?

10. What will you do differently if you have to do this type of observation again?