Purpose: The purpose of this activity is to become better acquainted with younger children’s behavior. The more you know about what to expect of younger children, the easier it will be for you to work with them.

Directions: Choose one child to observe. Watch the child as discreetly as possible, answering the questions written below. If the child notices you observing him/her, just smile and wave. If s/he asks you why you are watching, explain that you are learning to be a teacher and you want to find out what kinds of activities they like to do.

Please complete the following questions about the child you are observing:

Child’s age_________  Child’s sex___________  Length of time you observed (min) _______

Where observation took place (e.g. in park, classroom)________________________________________

What did you observe the child doing? (e.g. exploring, playing with others)__________________________

About how long did the child spend on any activity before “moving on”? _________________

Of the activities you observed, which seemed to interest the child the most?_____________

How do you know?_____________________________________

With whom did the child interact? (e.g. teacher, boys only, boys and girls) ________________

How did the child interact with others (e.g. touch, talk) _______________________________

Did the child notice you watching?_________ If so, what did s/he do?_____________________

What do you think is most interesting or fun about younger child?________________________

Anything else you observed about the child______________________________________________