

Ten-minute detailed observation – example

Name: Leah Andrews	Age: 3 years 6 months (<i>Note exact age because of developmental differences.</i>)	Observer: Mrs Johal
Date and time of observation: 14/4/06. 9.40–9.50	Context of observation: Leah is playing outside in the garden with her friend Delima (aged 4 years 2 months).	
<p>Observation</p> <p>Leah jumps off the stile. Picks up mobile phone.</p> <p><u>Leah:</u> “Can you come? Don’t worry, Delima. They’re here. The hospital are here. I need to ring somebody.” Dials a number.</p> <p><u>Leah:</u> “Hello. It’s Leah. It’s Delima’s sister here. Hello. What you doin? I’m Delima’s sister. Are you busy? OK. I’ll ring back later.”</p> <p>Leah closes the phone and follows Delima. She repeats this four times and each time the person she calls is busy. Finally she says, “OK. Can you come up later?”</p> <p>Leah goes to the teacher and asks, “Can we go on a woodland walk today? Can we go on a bike ride?”</p> <p><u>Leah:</u> “Delima. Do you know how to do a phone? You take one hand and put your finger like this and your other finger to your ear.” (She demonstrates how to make a mobile phone using her fingers.)</p> <p><u>Delima:</u> “I don’t know how to do that before.”</p> <p>Leah and Delima run across the garden to the fallen tree. They scramble up, climb onto the highest branch. Leah counts 5-4-3-2-1 three times, then says, “Blast off!” and Delima jumps off the tree, quickly followed by Leah.</p>		
<p>Evidence of significant learning</p> <p>CLL: Adopts and uses dialogues she has heard adults use. Speaks clearly, in simple sentences. Asks simple questions. Can explain how to mime making a phone call.</p> <p>MD: Uses numbers spontaneously in play.</p> <p>CD: Engages in imaginative play. Sets the play scenario. Uses one thing to represent another, with features in common, ie fingers for phone.</p> <p>PD: Plays very well with Delima, taking turns and sharing.</p>		
<p>Next steps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Extend Leah’s counting skills by interacting with her in play and modelling counting backwards from 10. 10, 9, 8, 7.... Blast off! 2. Invite both friends to show the class how to make a mobile phone using their fingers. 3. Introduce paramedic props to the outdoor area alongside the mobile phones. This could include a paramedic uniform (or any jacket with a label on it saying ‘paramedic’), a stethoscope and a pad for making notes. 		