**OBSERVATION: TODDLERHOOD/EARLY CHILDHOOD**

One of the best ways to learn about people is to observe them in the real world, a type of naturalistic observation. This will give you the opportunity to obtain a view of the more genuine and dynamic qualities of human behavior.

Procedure: You will be observing a single individual or two or more individuals between the ages of 2 and 4 in the Collin College Child Development Lab School. You will need to make arrangements with the staff to schedule your observation times. You will be watching and recording behaviors. You are to observe one or more people representing this stage of life span development for a total of 60 – 90 minutes. I encourage you to do shorter segments with a variety of children engaged in different activities. While observing, take brief notes and then quickly record your more detailed data following theobservation period.

**A few hints for observing people**

1. Be as unobtrusive as possible. You are entering the person’s world, so please do not disturb this world.

2. All you need is paper and pen to write down a few notes about the behavior. Do not take recorders or cameras. Do not write continually. In fact, jotting down notes immediately after the observation period is best.

3. Details are important. Take mental note of verbal and nonverbal communication.

Objectivity is important. Attempt to suspend judgment and opinion as you observe.

4. Review developmental milestones before beginning your observation.

**Format for your paper**

**Your paper must be typed, 12 point font, double-spaced, and a minimum of two pages in length. Please include a cover sheet with your name, the course, and the date. Indicate the location/s of the observation, the approximate age and sex of your subject. Do not identify your subjects my name. The first section of the paper should be devoted to specific, objective behavioral data. The second section of the paper should emphasize the connections between your observations and developmental concepts from your text.**