

READ AND REFLECT 4: OBSERVING OPEN EXPLORATION

Name: _____

Make a copy of the “Observation Record” on p. 136 of *Exploring Water with Young Children*. Document observations of four or five children during an open exploration at the water table. Reflect on your observations and complete the questions below. Bring your observation record and your reflections to workshop 4.

1. What evidence do you see of children’s interest in exploring water? Include specific comments and behaviors of the children.
2. What connections can you make between children’s engagement and the science outcomes on pp. 120–121 of the teacher’s guide? Look in the water explorer behaviors column for examples similar to those of the children.
3. What will you want to accomplish on your next exploration? What might improve the quality of children’s engagement? How can you extend experiences they have had? How can you draw in new children?
4. How would you rate the quality of your observation notes? Did you record descriptive details that were useful when reflecting? What might you want to do differently next time?