

Child Observation Methods

Sociogram



Sociometric Observation

Participatory.

- Also known as a sociogram.
- This type of observation records/tracks the friendships of children and may be used for research into friendship groups.
- Need to plan questions to ask children about friendships.
- A chart and questions needs to be prepared in advance and the results can be recorded in a pie charts or graphs.

Use of Sociograms

- Is best used with school aged children over 5 years.
- Is useful during the settling in period to find out how relationships are forming.
- It is formed by asking children who their friends are and recording this on a chart.

Advantages of sociogram method

- A good starting point for understanding children's needs.
- Easy to read and understand.
- Highlights that every child is an individual.
- Gives us an idea of what is going on and helps us to decide what to do next.
- Can be carried out without much effort but some preparation is required.

Disadvantages of sociogram method

- Provides closed data.
- The information obtained may be limited and therefore will limit our evaluation of the situation.
- Does not always give a true picture because children can state their friendships with a child they have only just finished playing with.

Disadvantages of sociogram method

- Not suitable for use with children under 5 yrs.
- Chart requires planning and preparation.
- Children can have an “off” day or may not have any friends at that particular time, but may have friends on a different day.

Using the Sociogram Method

Example:

Date: 20.06.04

Time started: 9.30 Time finished: 10.30

Age range of children: 5yrs 1mth to 6yrs 2 mths

Number of children: 15

Setting: Reception and Year 1 class

Using the Sociogram Method

- Aim of the observation:

To observe the children's relationships. I asked the children to tell me who their best friends were and from this information I compiled a graph.

Record of Sociogram Observation

Name	Yrs	Mths	Number of Friends					
			1	2	3	4	5	6
George	5	11	Rafik*	Oliver*	Tara	James*		
Andrew	5	4	Joanne*	Lucy	Michael*	Billy*	James	
James	6	2	George*	Oliver*				
Sarah	5	10	Tara*	Lucy*	Katy*	Louise*		
Joanne	5	2	Andrew*	Billy	Lucy			
Tara	5	8	Tracey*	Sarah*	Zelley			
Tracey	5	6	Tara*	Louise				
Michael	5	1	Andrew*	Oliver	Billy			
Rafik	5	9	George*	James	Oliver*			
Oliver	6	1	George*	Rafik*	James*			
Katy	5	6	Lucy*	Sarah*	Louise*			
Lucy	5	7	Sarah*	Tracey	Katy*			
Zelley	5	4	A					
Billy	5	6	Andrew*	James				
Louise	5	7	Sarah*	Katy*	Tara	Zelley		

Key

* Children choosing each other.

 Boys

 Girls

A Absent

Understanding the information collected

Look at the example provided.

What information has been collected about this group of children?

Can you see any similarities/differences?

Next Steps

From the information the children have told you, think about:

- Who was the most popular choice amongst the boys and girls and why?
- Did each of the children choose friends from the same gender and why?
- What conclusions do you make about the children who were hardly chosen?
- Look at the whole group/class interaction. What conclusions can you make and why?

Next Steps

- You will need to write up your:
- Evaluation
- Personal learning
- Recommendation

Include links to developmental norms and appropriate theorists to support your findings