

HOME OBSERVATION FOR MEASUREMENT  
OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
0-36 MONTHS  
**4 CORE TOPICS for Conversational Interviewing**

**#1 DAILY ROUTINES**

We are interested in knowing the kinds of things your baby does when s/he is at home. Can you help me a little by describing a typical day in your family? Like yesterday - - start with the things that happened when s/he first woke up and from there on as well as you can remember.

1. Was s/he the first one to wake up?
2. Where did s/he eat his/her breakfast? (at the table with the family or by himself (herself)?)
3. Then what happened to him/her...
4. What is bedtime like? Are there any specific routines or things you do each before bedtime?
5. One of the hardest things about having a baby around the house is they always need a lot of attention, and you have a lot of other things to do besides pay attention to them. For example, how do you arrange things while you are doing the dishes (or laundry, or cleaning house)?
6. When you do housework, do you concentrate on just that, while s/he entertains himself (herself) (or sleeps) or do you make conversation with "X" as you do your work?
7. During the day does "X" father give you some help in caring for the baby? **DOES HE DO THIS REGULARLY FOR AT LEAST 10 MINUTES OR SO EACH DAY?**
8. How do you manage meal times at your house? (Do you feed "X" at the table while you eat, all members eat, or do you always give him/her meals separately?)

**#2 TOYS/PLAY**

1. How does "X" get started playing with his toys? Does s/he choose what he wants to do, or do you make some suggestions or maybe get out certain toys?
2. Do you find there are many times when you need to get "X" started with his/her toys? Can you tell me more about those times?

3. When “X” gets a new toy, do you sit down with him/her to play with it or does s/he explore it on his/her own?
4. Who buys “X” toys? How do you decide which toys to play with or buy? (Such as the times you may have to narrow the choices.)
5. Has “X” shown any interest in books yet?
6. Does he want you to read to him/her? **HOW OFTEN?**
7. How many of his/her own books does s/he have at this age?
8. Who puts the toys away when play time is over?
9. Where do you keep his/her toys? Have you set aside some special place for them?
10. Babies (children) at this age often get involved in playing in things that get them all messy and dirty like water or food or dirt. Does “X” ever want to do this kind of thing? **HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT IT?**
11. In general, does s/he mind you pretty well? What do you have to do to get him/her to do what s/he needs to do?
12. Would you describe “X” as easy going or strong willed? In the past week how many times have you needed to spank him/her?
13. We’re trying to learn about the kinds of toys and play materials that children like to play with. It is important for us to better understand whether toys and play materials help a child to learn. I’m interested in knowing something about the kinds of toys and play materials “X” likes to play with. (Some may not apply to him/her yet).

**MUSCLE ACTIVITY TOYS OR EQUIPMENT:** crib gym, ball, jump seat, rocking horse.

**PUSH OR PULL TOY:** corn popper, pull behind toy, **STROLLER, WALKER, KIDDIE CAR, SCOOTER, OR TRICYCLE.**

**CUDDLY TOY (FOR ROLE PLAY), MOBILE, TABLE AND CHAIR, HIGH CHAIR, PLAY PEN.**

**SIMPLE EYE-HAND COORDINATION TOYS:** shape sorter, fit together beads, beads to string.

**COMPLEX (COMBINATION) EYE-HAND COORDINATION:** stacking/nesting, blocks, building toys

**TOYS FOR LITERATURE AND MUSIC:** books, toy musical instruments, rattle with musical jingle, records or cassettes.

### **#3 OUTSIDE TRIPS/VISITORS**

1. A child as young as “X” ties a mother (family) down much of the time. Do you ever manage to get away by yourself?
2. (IF YES ANSWER) Who takes care of “X” when you are away?
3. Can you usually count on her (him) or do you have to get a different person each time?
4. Give me some examples of places you go and take “X” with you.
  - **Grocery store** (how often)
  - **Doctor’s office** (how often/when)
  - **Other: relatives, museums, zoo** (how often)
5. How often do relatives come to visit your family? Or they may visit there instead. **HOW OFTEN DO THEY COME (OR DO YOU GO)?**
6. (IF THE ANSWERS ARE SELDOM) ASK: Do you ever take him/her out in the yard and put him in a play pen, or walk him/her in a stroller? **HOW OFTEN DO YOU DO THIS?**

### **#4 DISCIPLINE/TEACHING**

1. We know that all kids misbehave from time to time. When this happens what kinds of things do you do to get your child to listen?
2. Others?