FAMILY OBSERVATION - FAMILY DYNAMICS

Select one family from your ECI program or the community. Plan your observation for a time when most of the family members are present. Be sure that the family is comfortable with your presence and knows why you are observing.

First name of participants: __________________________________________

Date of observation: ________________________________________________

Name of EIS: _________________________________________________________

Setting: _____________________________________________________________

Description of family’s activities: _______________________________________

1. Family Composition
   • Who are the members of the family?
   • Who appears to be the primary decision-maker?

2. Childrearing Practices
   • Who is the primary caregiver? Who else participates in caregiving?
   • What are the parameters of acceptable child behavior?
   • What form(s) does the guidance or discipline take?
   • How does the caregiver calm an upset infant?

3. Language and Communication Style
   • What is the family’s preferred language or mode of communication?
   • Is the family proficient in English?
   • Does the family communicate with each other in a direct or indirect style?
   • How does the family communicate with the children?

4. Describe those interactions between caregivers and children that you believe will lead to developmental changes.
5. Describe the activities and interactions that strengthened the emotional ties between the parents and their children.

6. Describe those interactions or patterns that reflect the cultural background of the family.

7. If there is a child with a developmental delay or disability in the family, describe the ways that child’s development affects family dynamics.