

Child observation



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Introduction In a hot afternoon, a woman in mid thirties strolls in shopping mall towing her son in her left hand. Their entrance into the mall is noticeable to a casual observer because the boy is resisting, crying and trying to pull away from the mother's firm grip. The boy is about four years old and just above his left eye, a white plaster is clearly visible, covering a wound that appears to be a minor graze. On his arms, there is a black scab on the right elbow and left knee, indicating that he could have fallen on a rough surface. The boy is in a white short-sleeved shirt that has black stains on the breast pocket and beige shorts. The stains are fresh, and they are oily and greasy. The mall is spacious, stocked with different accessories including electronics, toys for children, foodstuffs, oils and perfumes. As the mother passes along the department stocked with toys, the boy scratches and attempts to bite the mother's hand and she immediately releases him, cursing silently but loud enough for the nearest shop attendant to hear. The boy mischievously glances at his mother, and he dashes across the alley, towards a big yellow toy car. However, as he attempts to retrieve it from a higher shelf, he stumbles and falls, hitting the floor head first, and the nearby toys and accessories fall on his body. His mother quickly goes to his rescue rubbing his head to alleviate the pain from the fall and warns him to stop or else she will not buy him a present. As the mother and son moves along an electronic department, the boy notices a small girl almost his age accompanied by a male adult. The girl is riding a small bicycle and the boy leaves his mother and joins the girl, apparently wanting to snatch the bicycle from her. Observation sheet of the interactions and behaviors observed in the boy

Interactions observed comments The most notable interactions are with his mother, and the environment, both within and outside the shopping

<https://assignbuster.com/child-observation-essay-samples/>

mall. The boy's physical appearance reveals that he is explorative and adventurous. His interaction with the mother is bold and this provides him with the opportunity to interact with others and the environment. His grease stained shirt and injuries demonstrate he is proactive with his surrounding environment. Behaviors observed The boy is manipulative, aggressive and rebellious behavior This is portrayed by his insistence and petulant spirit of wanting to get what he wants regardless of the consequences. The boy demonstrates a high level of self-confidence, courage and initiative to pursue his interests. Injuries on his face, elbows and knees indicate that the boy is very adventurous, endeavors that sometimes causes harm From the behaviors and the interactions of the boy, he could be classified using Erickson's eight developmental psychosocial stages, whereby he falls in the third. Erickson (1963) refers the third stage as the " initiative vs. guilt". The initiative character is the ability of a child to start projects and follow through with confidence and belief that it is the right thing to do (Erickson, 1963). Children with the initiative go after their pursuits, regardless of the failure or the consequences that could befall them. In the case of this boy, initiative is highly prevalent because his mother does not admonish him. This encourages the boy to explore with utter disregard of his own safety or concerns of other people. This developmental stage occurs to children between the ages of three to six years (Erickson, 1963). References Erickson, E., H.(1963). *Childhood and society*. 2nd Ed. New York: Norton.