

Psy 353 Learning and the Young Child

Schwartz

Activity in Gender Differences in Behavior

Instructions:

For this activity, select an area where a large number children and an array of possible activities are to be had. I suggest a school yard at recess or a park-playground situation like Caper Acres, etc. Your task is to identify seven different activities (playing football, standing and chatting, playing on swings or slides or jungle gyms, playing tag, playing make believe or house, etc.). You will observe each activity for ten (10) minutes, taking a “reading” every other minute, for a total of five observations. A reading is simply taking a count of the children playing each game, and a notation of their gender

Once you have obtained the “data” on your observed children, you are to analyze your samples for activity and gender differences. Your analysis should contain a chart of the responses you were given, and an interpretive discussion of the differences.

Pay attention to elements like: gender bias, sex-stereotypic behavior, humor, perspective-taking, gender scripts and gender schemas, etc. Make certain to read the relevant chapters in Bjorklund *before* you do your observation.

Finally, make certain your report is well structured, double-space type-written and contains, as an appendix, your actual data. And, most of all, *have fun!* You should find it a fascinating experience.

Data Sheet for the Study of Activity Preference By Sex

Experimenter: _____ Place _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Number of Children: Start _____ Finish _____
M___ F___ M___ F___

Approximate Age Span: _____

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Observation Cycle</u>					<u>Statistics</u>
	1	2	3	4	5	

Activity Title: _____ b b b b b boy sum ___
g g g g g girl sum ___

Proportion__

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g g g g g girl sum ___

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