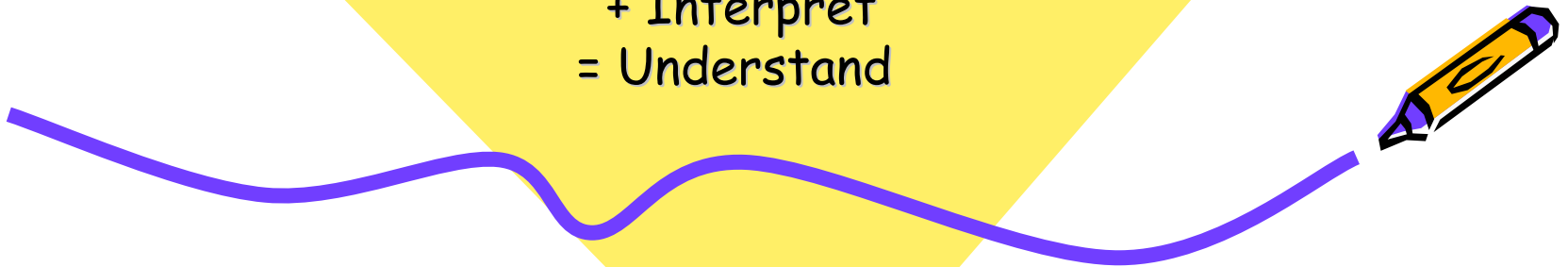


What is Observation

Children's Culture W.05

Observe
+ Interpret
= Understand



Observation

- To *see* without *thinking*
- To *transcribe* without *interpreting*

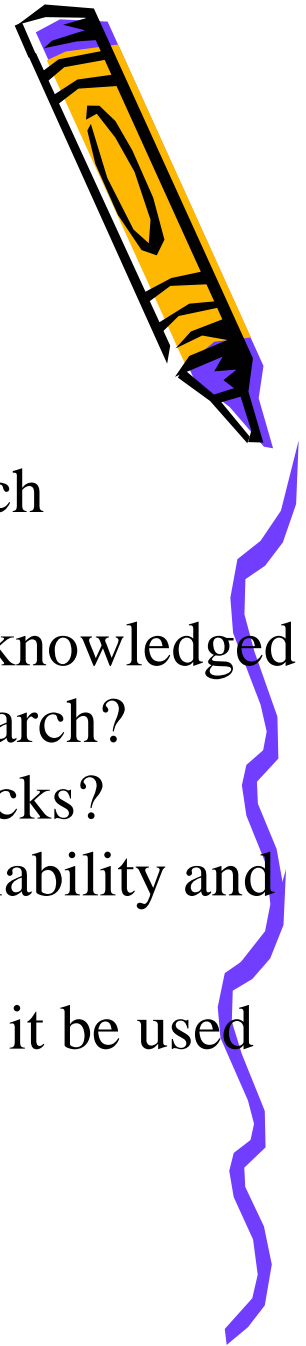
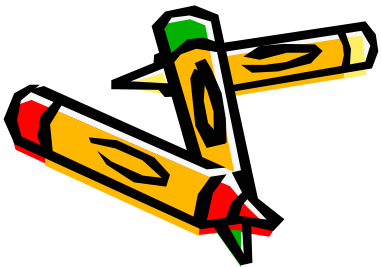
Interpretation

- To apply *theory* to what you've seen
- To *ask questions* of your transcription



Methods of Observation

- What is naturalistic research, and why it is important?
- What is ecological validity, and why do naturalistic research designs have it?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of being an acknowledged or unacknowledged participant in observational research?
- What are case studies? What are their benefits and drawbacks?
- How are behaviors systematically coded to assess their reliability and validity?
- What is archival research, and what types of questions can it be used to answer?



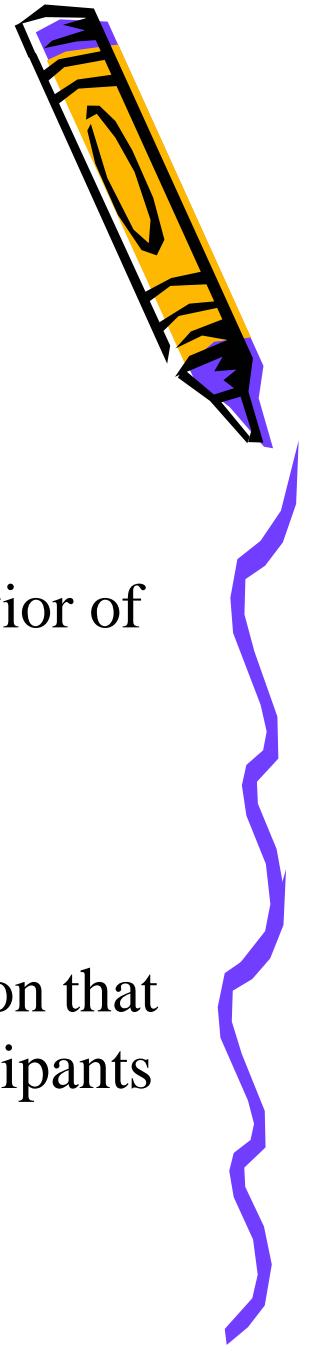
Naturalistic Research and Ecological Validity

Naturalistic Research

Research designs which describe and measure the behavior of people or animals as it occurs in their everyday lives.

Ecological Validity

The extent to which the research is conducted in situation that are similar to the everyday life experiences of the participants

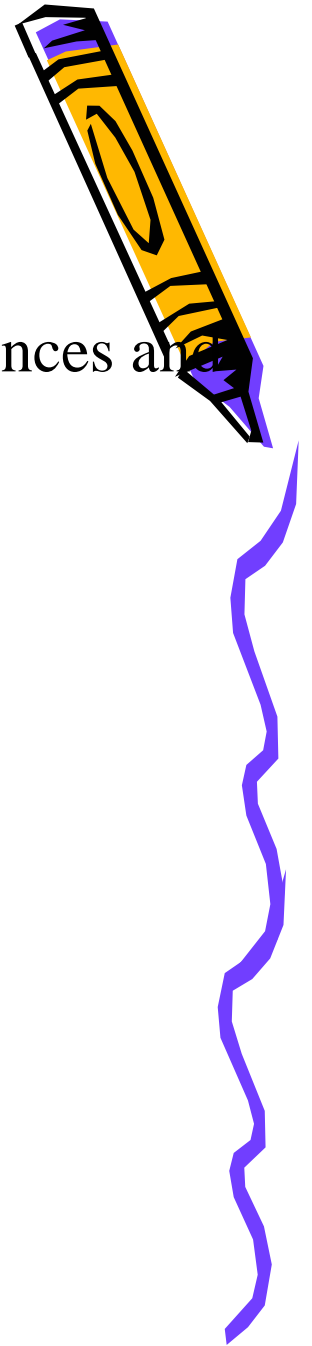
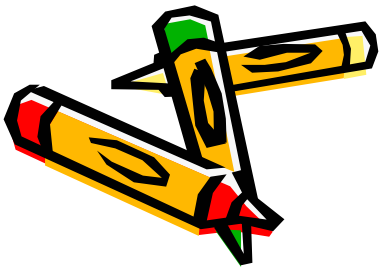


Children's Language Play



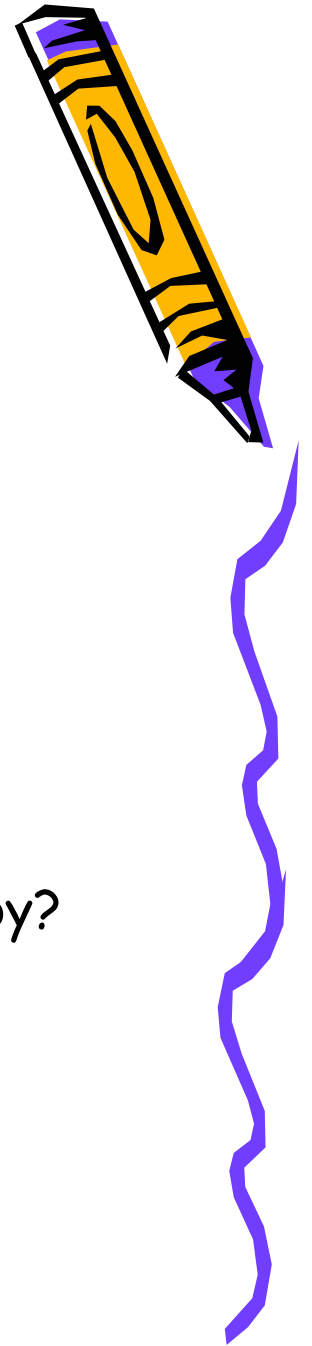
Case Studies

A descriptive record of one or more individual's experiences and behavior.



Systematic Coding Methods

- (1) How do you record the observation?
 - (a) Media: Video Recording, Tape Recording, etc.
 - (b) writing things down (MUCH less reliable)
- (2) What do you observe?
 - (a) Write down everything you see
- (3) How do you interpret it?
 - (a) Define behavioral categories based on your theory or prediction.
 - (b) What part of the observation are you interested by?





K: I can do it myself. Go le- leave her, leave my, leave my fren alone brother.

D: I ain't doin'. I ain't fixin

D: [momma.]

K: [Will you all]

K: keep it down there, some body is trying to sleep here.

D: Da::ng.

K: I hope you remember that you got a microphone on you.

D: K: Remember this on our shirts

D: So what, they, she can't hear, hear or even know what we're doin'.

K: but she can tape it duh, la;:. What is this? You drinknin in the house?

D: Aw, aw, da-dang, you xx refrigerator.

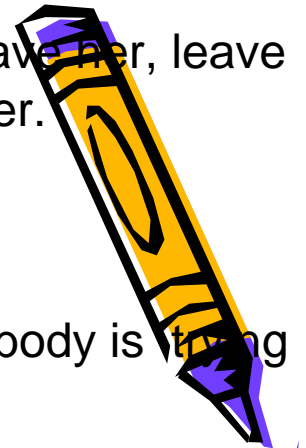
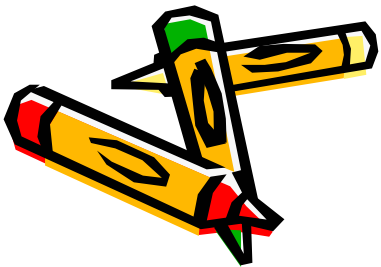
K: Here you go. Gimme my chair.

D: You don't even want the chair.

K: You don't even want nothing [up in that room.]

D: [I need my beer]

D: I need my beer, I need my beer. You ate all my Popsicles, I got 2 more beers now.



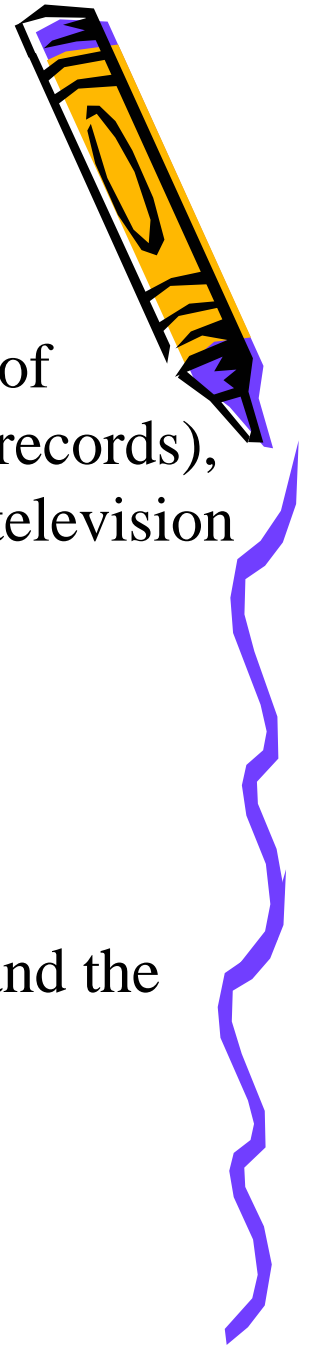
Archival Research

Research involving analysis of any type of public records of behavior such as government records (e.g. wills, criminal records), newspaper articles, speeches, and letter of public figures, television and radio broadcasts. **Aries**

Content Analysis

Analysis involving systematic coding of data. It includes the specification of coding categories and the use of more than one rater.

Cassell!



Class Assignment: Observation

- (1) Watch the children
- (2) Write down everything they say and do
- (3) Using an observation sheet, create some behavioral categories that describe the setting or feature of the setting you think are significant (e.g. playground, lunch time, or structural features)
- (4) Use your categories to interpret!

