

Avoiding Non-objective Words

During an observation it is important to describe what you see and hear using words that do not indicate judgment or conclusions on your part. Feelings, intelligence, motivation or how someone feels about him/herself can't be observed. Stick to what you actually see and hear and do not interpret. Interpretation comes later when you start deciding how to use the observation data to plan interventions and activities.

Examples of words to avoid:

Happy	Competent
Sad	Weak
Mad	Strong
Bored	Pretty
Proud	Insecure
Lazy	Ugly
Crabby	Normal
Cooperative	Abnormal
Smart	Good
Dumb	Bad
Slow	Nice
Bright	Mean
Average	Frustrated
Above or below average	Got revenge
Provoked	Helpful
Out-of-control	Tricked