IMPORTANCE OF OBSERVATION TO TEACHER-GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

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It is important to observe and record pupils’ behavior and activities in and out of the classroom. Homeroom advisers and counselors learn much through close observation in the classroom and elsewhere about pupils’ relationships with their classmates and other people, their interest, their needs, their problems, and the manners they solve them, and their personality traits.

The teacher gains most of her understanding from day-to-day observation of children. To make useful observations the teacher needs to learn what and how to observe. He needs to resist the tendency to label rather than to describe behavior. He should look for strength and detect difficulties. He should focus on behavior patterns rather than on isolated actions and try to understand some of the complex conditions out of which a pupils’ behavior arises.

According to Strong and Morris observations are recorded in different ways:

A. The anecdotal records- in this type of observation record, exceptional behavior or unusual activity of a pupil is noted by the teacher or counselor and the record is included in his cumulative record folder.

B. The anecdotal behavior diary – this record is a summary of a series of anecdotal reports made for a certain individual pupil over some time and recorded in chronological order.
C. The periodic summary behavior- this is another record of the teacher observation about each pupil in his class during a definite period, say a grading period. The summary observation of each child is made a part of the child cumulative folder.

D. The rating scale- this is a condensed method of recording observation in and out of the classroom. A rating scale should be based on careful observation. If a school is using a personality rating scale, the teacher and other guidance personal should be encouraged to keep in mind the traits that are emphasized in the scale and try to prepare anecdotes that will throw light on these traits.

Strong and Morris further emphasized that through observation the teacher-counselor can have a well-rounded estimate of the child’s personality in action. He can see how the individual responds to the social situation and notes how he reacts to frustrations. At the same time, he will learn to observe objectively and without personal prejudice.

References:
https://www.alliant.edu/blog/why-is-counseling-important-in-schools/