

# Interpreting Observations

**Directions:** Read the following notes that one student wrote while observing children in a pre-school. In the space below, write your interpretation of children’s behavior, based on the notes.

**Brett** alone in block area. Putting blocks together on the floor. Object he’s making gets wider, taller.  
**Tomas** comes to area, asked what **Brett** was doing.  
**Brett:** “I’m making a space station.”  
**Tomas** picks up some stray blocks. Begins to place them in new combination to right of **Brett**.  
“Here’s a ship from Mars.”  
**Brett:** “No, that’s not where it comes in.” Stopped working and stood with hands on hips.  
**Tomas:** “This is the Mars space mission coming back to report. There’s a big meeting on the station ‘cuz...‘cuz...there’s a monster in space that’s gonna eat the Mars colony.”  
**Colin** arrives. Watches others. “What’re you playing?”  
**Brett** doesn’t answer. Shakes head at **Tomas** “No monsters. They can’t live in space.” Kneels, looking at a block. “It’s an asteroid that’s heading to Mars.”  
**Tomas** nods. Speaks quickly. “Yeah. It’s a big asteroid that’s going to hit the colony on Mars. It’s going to destroy everything. They need help.”  
**Brett** picks up other block. Moves it through air, making engine sounds. Walks around area. Steps over and around blocks that are part of game. “Here’s the president of the earth. He’s coming to the meeting to decide what to do.”  
**Colin:** “Can I play?”  
**Brett:** “You can be the Admiral. You command the space force. Come to the meeting too.”  
**Tomas** moves to other area. Clears stray blocks off floor. Puts blocks together making buildings. “Here’s the Mars colony.” Takes smaller blocks. Moves them from ground to air. “People are leaving. They’re afraid.”  
**Colin** takes block and moves it through air. “The scout goes out to watch the asteroid. The crew has to see what it looks like.”

[Answers might include aspects such as the children’s use of imagination, the way new players are integrated into the game, and how they work together to establish what the game is about.]

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