



## PIWI Home Visit Example



Child: Maxi

Age: 26 months

Date: August 12, 2013

### **Developmental Observation Topic:**

How I explore toys/materials that are familiar to me and toys/materials that are new to me.

### **Environments:** Possible Toys/Materials (from home environment):

milk jugs and clothespins, fence and farm animals, cardboard box with window cut out and puppets

### **Greeting/Welcome:**

What has been happening since the last home visit? How did the "Things to Try" work out? What did you and Maxi try? What happened?

### **Opening Discussion:**

*Introduction: (\*have a few toys for Maxi to play with while talking with mom about the DOT)*

We have been talking about how Maxi explores her environment. We know that children at this age like to explore and figure out their environments. That is how they learn about their world. Remember last week when Maxi was a little afraid of the jack-in-the-box that she got for her birthday? When you showed her how it worked and that it wouldn't hurt her - she really started to check it out - to explore it. She wanted to figure out how it worked. What made Jack pop up! We also found out that she liked to practice climbing up and down the slide when we went to the park. She watched the other children on the slide and then she grabbed your hand to go see the slide. She touched it and rubbed her hand on it - she had to explore it first. You did such a great job encouraging her and showing her how to go up the steps and you held her hands as she came down the slide! Then she wanted to do it over and over again -which is really important because that is how she is exploring, practicing new skills and learning about new things!

**Questions:** Children will often explore differently when different materials are available, such as toys that are familiar to them and toys that are new to them. Ask mom - What types of toys/materials does Maxi seem most interested in? What kinds of toys/materials does she play with for longer periods of time? When toys/materials are interesting to children, they often will spend more time exploring and figuring out how things work. When they spend more time exploring objects, they learn more about them and feel more competent in their ability to make things work. Look at what Maxi is doing

right now. That is a great example of what we are talking about! She is trying to figure out how to put the blocks in the shape sorter. When it doesn't fit in one space, she tries another hole. She is exploring different spaces/sizes to try to figure it out.

You had mentioned that you wished Maxi would spend more time playing with toys instead of looking at something for a minute and then moving on to something else. So, today we are going to look at what types of toys/materials keep Maxi interested so she will spend more time exploring. We gathered several items together so we can see what Maxi is interested in. We have one of Maxi's favorite toys (her fence and farm animals) and some items that you saved for us to use like the milk jug, clothespins and cardboard box that are new to her. First, let's watch and wait to see what Maxi is interested in. We can see what she does with the objects and then you can join in and play with her.

**Things to Try:** See if you can keep her interested in the materials a little longer by:

- Imitating what Maxi is doing with the toy/material
- Talking about what Maxi is doing - like we worked on last week
- Adding a new object/action to Maxi's play (playing peek-a-boo with the cardboard box or using a puppet to talk with Maxi through the windows we cut in the box)

**Predictions:**

What do you think Maxi will be most interested in? Do you think she will spend the most time playing with her favorite toy (fence and farm animals) or the toys/materials that are new to her (milk jug and cardboard box)? How do you think she will explore the materials?

**Main Points:** Let's give it a try and see which toys/materials are most interesting to Maxi and see how she explores!

**PARENT-CHILD PLAY/OBSERVATION TIME:**

Use triadic strategies to support Maxi and her mom as they play to support competence, confidence and mutual enjoyment!

**CLOSING DISCUSSION:**

Wow! Maxi really liked that box! She spent most of her time playing with the box. Were you surprised? What do you think it was about the box that Maxi found so fascinating? What else did you notice about how she explored the box? Did any of the other toys/materials seem to be interesting to her? What strategies did you use to keep her interested? You were so good with her when she was afraid to go in the box! That was great to get in the box

with her until she felt comfortable. It will be fun to see if the box becomes one of her favorite materials to play with!

***Main Points:***

- When you make opportunities for exploring and learning available, Maxi will be more likely to stay interested in objects and explore and play with them.
- Toys/materials and activities that she likes or prefers will keep Maxi engaged for longer periods than non-preferred toys/materials.
- Adding new objects/materials (box, puppets, etc.) helps increase her exploration as well as the time she spends with the toys. She might be interested just because it is new to her and you are playing with her showing her what to do – which always makes her want to stay longer.
- You (mom) played a huge role in keeping her interested by providing opportunities for her to explore. You joined in – supporting and extending what Maxi was doing. You climbed in the box when she was afraid – that was a great strategy! And, she loved when you talked with her using the puppet when she was in the box! Did you see her face?

***Ideas for things they can try before the next home visit:***

Based on what we saw Maxi do today – what kinds of things can you try next week to help her become more interested in exploring different materials? (*Give mom time to respond*). You always talk about how much she likes to help you wash dishes, but that she will only stay with you for a few minutes. Do you think you could add something new to that activity and see if she will stay longer – maybe explore the water and make a game out of washing, rinsing and drying? Since she liked the box so much, are there things you could add to that activity? We also know that she loves the songs that you two sing together – could you add some hand motions or dances? You have so many good ideas to try with her. I can't wait to hear what happens!

***Parent-Child Song:***

Sing good-bye song with Maxi and her mom (good-bye routine) – waving good-bye to each person

Good-bye Maxi

Good-bye Mom

Good-bye Lilly (home visitor)

We'll see you next time I come!

## Watch What I Can Do!



### Today we will:

How I explore toys/materials that are familiar to me and toys/materials that are new to me.

### What we learned about me:

I played with the cardboard box the whole time! I surprised my mom because she thought I would play with my fence and farm animals. The box was new to me – so it was fun to explore. I have never had a box to play with. I was afraid to go in the box at first – but my mom got in it and then I did too! I really liked it. My mom used the puppet to talk to me when I was in the box. She let the puppet peek through the window. It was really fun! We laughed a lot!



### What we will try before our next home visit:

My mom had lots of good ideas! We are going to:

- Cardboard box:
  - Mom will try putting “egg crate” material in the bottom of the box to see if I will notice something is different and explore.
  - Mom will try putting my favorite book and a new book in the box and see what happens – how I explore.
- Washing dishes together
  - Mom will talk to me about what we are doing. She will try giving me a sponge to wash my favorite dish and cup and then a towel to dry it off. She might have to show me how to do this first!
  - We can try making up a silly song to sing since I like singing to see if it will keep me engaged in washing dishes longer!