Brain-Body Observation Toolkit

Downloadable Templates & Worksheets

Your practical toolkit for understanding your child's unique nervous system communication



Quick Start Checklist

Choose your focus
Pick one daily rhythm (morning or evening) OR one domain to start

Observe for 3-5 days
Use the templates below to document your observations

Document without analyzing
Just notice and record what you see

Look for patterns
Use the reflection questions to identify connections

Try one small support
Based on what you discover, implement a gentle change

Remember: Be patient

You're learning a new language - give yourself time!

Daily Rhythm Observation Templates



Wake-Up Sequence (First 30

Morning Routine (30-90 minutes)

minutes) Date: Time awake: Natural wake vs alarm? Energy level:	 Executive function observations: Sensory seeking/avoiding: Movement patterns:
 Body state: First movement needs: Sensory responses (light/sound/touch): Communication style: 	Emotional tone:
 Environmental Factors What helped regulation: What seemed challenging: Family dynamic/energy: Quick Notes:	



Evening Wind-Down Tracking

Afternoon/Early Evening

Date:
• Energy shift time: From what to what:
Sensory needs changes:
Movement patterns:
Communication changes:
Wind-Down Process
Natural slow-down cues:
What helps transition to evening:
Sensory preferences for calm:
Emotional processing style:
Environmental Factors
Supportive elements:
Challenging aspects:
Quick Notes:

Domain-Specific Observation Templates



Date Range: to	
Seeking Patterns (What they gravitate toward)	Avoiding Patterns (What they move away from)
Movement/vestibular:	Movement/vestibular:
Deep pressure/proprioception:	Light touch/tactile:
• Textures/tactile:	Sounds/auditory:
• Sounds/auditory:	Visual overload:
Visual/lighting:	• Textures/fabrics:
• Smells/tastes:	
Regulation Connections	Environmental Observations
Sensory experiences that help focus:	Best sensory environments:

• Most challenging environments:

• Sensory experiences that help calm:

• Sensory triggers for overwhelm:

Movement & Motor Patterns

Date Ka	nge: to
	Movement for Regulation
	When excited:
1	When focused:
	When overwhelmed:
	During transitions:
	Repetitive/Organizing Movements
2	Most frequent patterns:
	When these happen most:
	Effect on other functions:
	Motor Planning Observations
3	Complex tasks approach: New physical shallenges
	 New physical challenges: Coordination patterns:
	Coordination patterns:
⊘ N	Movement-Function Connections
	Movement that helps thinking:
	Movement that supports emotional regulation:
	Movement that aids communication:

Emotional Regulation Patterns

Date Range: _____ to _____ **Environmental Social Triggers** 8 **Triggers** Å Interpersonal dynamics Information, not problems **Routine/Transition Sensory Triggers** Change and timing Processing differences

Physical Signs of Regulation States	Regulation Strategies that Help
Calm/regulated body signs:	Environmental supports:
Overwhelmed/dysregulated signs:	Movement supports:
Recovery process looks like:	Sensory supports:
	Social supports:

Time of Day Patterns

Activity-related Patterns



Date Range: to	
01	
Task Initiation	
What helps them get started:	
Common barriers to starting:	
Environmental supports:	
02	
Working Memory & Attention	
Attention span patterns:	
Memory strategies that work:	
Distraction patterns:	
03	
Flexibility & Problem-Solving	
Response to unexpected changes:	
Problem-solving approaches:	
Support needs for transitions:	
Environmental Connections	
Settings that support EF:	
Sensory supports for focus:	
Movement supports for thinking:	



Date Range: _____ to ____

Communication Styles • When regulated: • When overwhelmed: - • During different activities: • In different environments:	Non-Verbal Communication Body language patterns: Movement as communication: Sensory communication:
Communication Supports • Environmental factors that help: • Visual supports that work: • Timing considerations:	Breakdown Patterns When communication gets difficult: What helps repair communication:

Meaningful Patterns Identified



					- 4
L	\sim	TT	e	rn	٠.
	u	LL	┖=		

- What I observed: ______
- When/where it happens: ______
- Brain-body connection: ______
- Possible support to try:



Pattern 2

- What I observed: _____
- When/where it happens: ______
- Brain-body connection: _______
- Possible support to try: ______



Pattern 3

- What I observed: ______
- When/where it happens: ______
- Brain-body connection: _______
- Possible support to try: _______

Strengths & Gifts Noticed

Natural Regulation Strategies	Environmental Preferences
Unique Capabilities	Brain-Body Integration

Pattern Analysis Using CLEAR Framework

Pattern being analyzed: ______

C - Consistent

- Happens 3+ times under similar conditions
- Repeats across multiple days/weeks
- © Occurs in more than one environment
- B Has recognizable timing or triggers

Notes:

E - Environmental

- B Has identifiable environmental factors
- © Connected to sensory triggers
- Related to timing or setting

Notes:

R - Respectful

- [] Honors child's communication
- Supports connection and dignity
- Reduces conflict potential

Notes:

Conclusion: This pattern is:

- I Meaningful and worth supporting
- Need more information

Next steps: ______

L - Logical

- I Makes sense given nervous system knowledge
- I Fits with sensory/motor/emotional understanding
- Has clear neurological plausibility

Notes:

A - Actionable

- Depoints to specific supports
- Suggests environmental modifications
- Offers timing or approach adjustments

Notes:

Support Planning Worksheet

Based on My Observations

Environmental Modification to Try
2
Sensory Support to Offer
3
Movement Integration Opportunity
4
Communication Support to Implement
5
Routine/Timing Adjustment

Implementation Plan

Getting Started	Dragges Tracking
Start date:	Progress Tracking
How I'll know if it's helping:	Week 1 observations:
How long I'll try this approach:	What's working:
What I'll adjust if needed:	What needs adjustment:
Week 2 Observations	
What's working:	
What needs adjustment:	
1	2

Ongoing Refinement

Continue observing and adjusting based on your child's responses

Monthly Reflection & Evolution

Month/Year: _____

Growth & Changes Noticed
New Patterns Emerging
Supports That Are Working Well
Areas for Continued Noticings
Questions for Further Exploration
Celebration: Insights Gained This Month

Quick Reference: When to Seek Additional Support

Consider reaching out to professionals if:

- ☐ Patterns significantly interfere with daily functioning
- Child seems distressed by their experiences
- I Family functioning is significantly impacted
- I You need help interpreting complex patterns
- I Environmental modifications aren't providing relief

Remember:

Observation and understanding are always valuable, regardless of whether additional support is needed. **You are becoming an expert in your child's unique nervous system.**

This toolkit is designed to be printed and used alongside the main Observation & Integration Guide. For best results, focus on one section at a time and remember: you're learning a new language of nervous system communication.