

Chapter 2

Nonformal Observational Tools



- **Categorical tools** have predetermined categories into which all events and behaviors are coded during the observation (e.g., rating scales, checklists).
- **Narrative tools** are systematic and detailed written descriptions of behaviors (e.g., journals, running records, anecdotal notes of observations of critical incidents, ethnographic notes).
- **Descriptive tools** are verbatim accounts of actual language use and provide a detailed record of behaviors in various contexts (e.g., language transcripts).