

Activity 2.1: Distinguishing between objective and subjective observations

Materials needed
Video/DVD.

One set of 'observation' cards for each group.

Use of video



Using observation – making objective observations: use as **background** and **stimulus**. This section explains the importance of making objective observations and introduces the card sort activity. Participants may be interested to see how delegates at the CPD workshop tackle the card sort.

Instructions

1. The task is to decide which of the items are **objective observations** and which are **subjective observations**.
2. In groups of three or four, participants discuss each item and allocate it to one of three piles: 'objective observations'; 'subjective observations'; 'not sure'.
3. When the sorting is complete, invite each group in turn to contribute five cards in the 'objective' category. Check for agreement as the items are offered. Discuss those that trigger disagreement.
4. Continue going round the groups until all the 'objective' items have been agreed.
5. Next, follow a similar process for the 'subjective' items.
6. Finally, deal with any items that remain in the 'not sure' category.

Self-study suggestions Activity 2.1

This activity can easily be done on your own, either by:

- sorting the pack of cards that comes with this ring binder or
- completing Handout 2.1 (where the items on the cards are reproduced in the handout).

Your learning might be greater if you find someone to share this activity with you so that you can discuss the way each of you debates an item.

Instructions

1. Your task is to decide which of the items are **objective observations** and which are **subjective observations**. If you're sorting the cards, put them into three piles: 'Objective', 'Subjective' and 'Not sure'. If you're using Handout 2.1: 'Observations – objective or subjective?' on page 34, mark in the right-hand column whether an item is: objective (O), subjective (S), or you're unsure (?).
2. For each item that you believe is not an objective observation, write a version that is an objective observation – that is, free of judgement, opinion and interpretation. Then compare your assessments with the suggestions on Handout 2.2 on pages 35