

Soc 101 Practicum 2 Writing Assignment, due 9/17

In the book, *Gender Play*, Barrie Thorne analyzes and records gender relations and socialization among young children. Some of the research was collected by observing children in the school playground. We will go to the Wesley Place parking garage to unobtrusively observe children in the playground at the University School of Nashville. As we observe the children, please record interactions you observe where the children appear to enact certain boundaries, like the following:

1. Do you see children chasing one another on the playground? Record the gender of the “chased” and of the “chaser”. Do you notice any instances where the “chased” becomes the “chaser”?
2. Do you see any children invading the space or group activities of others (i.e., deliberately disrupting the activities of another group)? Record the gender of the “invaders” and of the “invaded”.

Write a short (1-2 page) reflection piece on the findings from your field notes. All assignments must be typed with double-spacing, 1” margins, and 12 point font. **Make sure to use concepts from our text and classroom discussions.** In your reflections, please address the following:

- a. Briefly summarize patterns in the chasing games.
- b. Briefly summarize patterns in the invasion games.
- c. Did the interactions you observed on the playground evoke stereotyped images of gender relations (e.g. boys as active and girls as passive)?
- d. How do gendered patterns in play impact life-long socialization processes?