

## **Naturalistic observation**

Examine behavior with observation without intrusion. There is intrusion even if the participants are aware they are being observed.

**Longitudinal study** -observation for few months of the same children

**Cross sectional** -study different children at the different age

Advantage: can be used where other methods are not possible to use, people behave naturally

Limitation: Experimenter has no control over the situation, participants may be aware of being watched, bias in categorization and replication is not usually possible

Example:

- *I would observe children in their own homes. Record the naturally occurring behaviour without any intervention. The fact that the data are not collected in laboratory makes naturalistic observation one kind of field research.*

## **Design of naturalistic observation**

1. **Participant observation research** - the investigator is involved in the study as an active participant (Entering the field, Being in the field, Leaving the field)
2. **Nonparticipant observation research**- the investigator only observes the behaviour of the participants
  - a) Continuous observation-observe nonstop (e.g. 60minutes)
  - b) Time interval sampling-series of short time sampling period (e.g. 60 seconds)
  - c) Time-point sampling
  - d) Random sampling-this is like time point sampling, except that the points in time at which behaviour is sampled are selected at random