Table 6.3: General Context Observations Sheet

| Setting (e.g. dining hall, kitchen, bedroom): |
| Date/time: |
| People present: |

**Culture**

What is the setting atmosphere and expectations?
How do client(s), staff and significant others relate to each other?

**Social**

How many people are generally in the context?
When are there opportunities for playing and socialising?
What are the expected social norms and routines (e.g. classroom rules, expectations of independence)?

**Temporal**

Is the setting routine structured or unstructured?
What is this order of events and how long is each activity?
How do the clients know about the routine?
Does the routine change from day to day? If so, how do the clients know about these changes?
Are there set routines (e.g. mealtimes, going to the toilet, sleep etc.)?

**Virtual**

How often are computers/tablets/phones/technology used?
Does anybody use augmentative communication equipment?
How comfortable do you think the staff and clients are using computers and other technology?

**Physical**

Where do the clients store their personal belongings? Is this accessible?
Are the buildings accessible for a wheelchair user or someone with restricted mobility?
Are the toilets and sinks accessible to all clients?
Is the space adequate (consider the space for working, sitting, socialising, moving around the environment, eating lunch etc.)?
What are the textures of the materials, furniture and carpet?
What is the usual noise level in this space?
What is the lighting like in this space? Is there any glare?
Are there visual distractions, i.e. notice boards, open shelves, decorations?
Are there movement opportunities for the clients? If so, how frequently?
What is the temperature of the space?

(Continued)
Draw a scale diagram (or take a photo if you have permission) of the physical environment. Include all of the permanent structures (doors, windows, steps, equipment etc.), moveable structures (chairs, tables, shelves etc.) and label how the clients move around the space.

Any other comments?