I feel that all the hands on experience that I have had through out my education as well as my personal life with children has aided in my understanding of the statement above. Observing children through out my education has helped me further understand what enables children to grow, learn and develop. Also, I have observed several other teacher with children and seen techniques that work for some children and some that do not. Working with school age children has also taught me a lot about how children continue to grow. All the experience I have had with children over the years has put the things I have learned in classes and out of books into real life situations. The classes I have taken in my undergraduate college career have kept me informed and able to aid in the growth and development of several children.
 The thing I learned the most, is how much the caregivers have an effect on the child’s growth and development. Not just the parents, but anyone else that cares for the child throughout their daily routine (teachers, nannies etc). The family is the fist and most important factor, they are there at the beginning of the child’s life, therefore they are the foundation of development. How much the parents talk to their infant determines how their language develops over time. Also, the modeling provided by the various caregivers aids in shaping much of the child’s behavior. The primary caregivers need to model the behavior that they want to see in their child, in order for it to be so.

 I find Social and Emotional Development in children to be the most fascinating. We are all social beings and from birth, children begin to express that. They use facial expressions and crying to get their needs met by the caregivers. Then, in the toddler and preschool years, they develop language skills and blossom into little social beings. They continue to develop and use these skills through out life, to communicate with others, as well as continue to have their needs met.

 Being a life long learner, I will continue to aid in children’s development to the best of my abilities. I will work closely with families to produce the best outcomes in these children. I will also observe and learn all that I can about how growth and development continues in the life of a child. You can never know too much, so I will continue to gain knowledge in this area through observations of children, as well as other teachers and professionals. I will provide families with the proper resources needed in order to further their child’s development. I will also continue to observe and gain more tools for working with children and aiding in their growth and development in all contexts.

 I always want to know more about what I can do for children; ways that I can personally help in the development of children. What I can do for the families so that the child is getting all that they need to continuously grow in multiple areas of development. I feel that something that I tend to struggle with is working with families where there is a language barrier. I have several times encountered families that don't speak english and I am an english speaker only, so this causes a barrier for both parties. I would like to work on this, and gather tools that can still continue to assist them, even if I am unable to directly communicate with the family. I have learned that you can’t personally help everyone, but that you can find appropriate resources to help all families. Whether that be someone that is able to talk to them, or education that would assist them further in the development of their child. I want to do as much as I can for all families and children that I encounter in my college and professional career.

 My knowledge is this area is documented through an assignment done in Child Development 251, Observational Techniques. It is assessment of a target child’s social and emotional development. It documents how this child interacts with children and adults, as well as how well she follows instructions or guidance. This piece provides specific examples of what this kind of development looks like in a preschooler.

 Also, in Child Development 392, I was able to observe a parent teacher conference. This was an opportunity for the teacher of a child and the parent of a child to gain a better understanding of where the child’s development was. They each got the chance to talk about how they felt she was doing and areas that may need a little bit of work. It gave them a chance to come up with a plan together on how to further the development of this specific child. They were able to get on the same page and provide consistency for the child by doing this.