Researching Methods

 In this area I have learned a lot of techniques and methods of researching child related issues. The inquiry for a course was an opportunity for my group and I to think about and come up with an inquiry that we could create and implement in the classroom with the children. Over the weeks we observed and documented the progress of our inquiry to see if it was an effective inquiry. Another one was a deep research paper which was very intense and took many weeks to accomplish. In this one focused on a topic I wanted to know more about children and created a detailed research with data regarding my topic. Another one was a child observation which I focused my observation on one child, and documented my observation on my child to understand more about my child did this and that, and what she was capable of, her strengths etc…These have been a few experiences that have facilitated and expanded my growth in understanding this learning objective.

 What I have struggled in this area is with the research paper. This was one of my most challenging courses and especially going through and completing the paper. I definitely had a lot of time to work on this but because it was the first intense study on a topic it was over whelming. Another one I had struggled was where I focused on a child only and it was challenging keeping my focus on one child when there were so many other children around. I feel it’s important when working with children to be aware of all the children present and recognize the abilities, strengths, and weaknesses of each child not only focus on a few or the ones who ask for the attention.

 As a member of the child development profession, I can offer my knowledge, experience and dedication to critical thinking and scientific methods of thinking to issues regarding children’s well-being. Having a growth in knowledge and experience throughout child development courses or internships, I know I can do better in these areas when working with children.

 One assignment that documents my growth in this area is the inquiry where I worked in a group investigating whether children can better express their emotions if we taught them about emotions and provide their school environment with activities and materials that could better teach them on handling their own emotions. We provided books about emotions in their reading area as well as have a book about emotions read during circle time. We also had charts that had visuals about what some emotions look like, and we had an area for documentation to document the observations and progress of the children having these materials in.

 Another assignment that documents my growth in this area is where I focused my time on only one child. Because of this I was able to learn so much about this child by giving her all my focus. I learned what she liked to do; who her friends were what she needed support in and what she was good at. It was a great experience to have.