SLO V Critical Thinking Scenario Assignment

*SLO V. Critical Thinking*

The Scenario: Your good friend has opened her own child care home and is providing care for several young children in addition to her own. You receive a call from her and she says “I have a dilemma. One of the children that I care for full time, Lily, just took her first step! It was such an exciting moment! I could tell it was going to happen so I ran and got the camera and recorded the whole thing! But then when I started thinking about sharing this with her parents, I began to have second thoughts. Her parents are so involved in her care, they ask so many questions, and mom, especially, has very mixed feelings about Lily being in child care and not being able to spend more time with her. Maybe they won’t be so excited that she took her first step at my house instead of when she was with them. Would it be dishonest if I didn’t share this information with them?

You bring this issue to your own staff meeting, anonymously of course, and ask your staff members to share their response. One staff member feels strongly that the family should be told and cites their reasons. Another feels equally as strong that the family should not be told and gives their rationale. Now you need to make a decision about how to respond.

My immediate response to the dilemma is to take a step back and take a look at the situation. I think that Lily’s families should be told that she took her first step. It is the families’ choice to put Lily in childcare even though Mom may not want to Lily to. Lily is going to grow and develop no matter what. The child care owner should share all information with the family it is dishonest to keep areas of development from the family.

The main issue in this scenario is that the child care owner wants to not tell the family that Lily took her first step and share the video with the family. According to the NAEYC code of ethical conduct the child care owner shouldrecognize that children and adults achieve their full potential in the context of relationships that are based on trust and respect. As a childcare owner she owes a responsibility to the family. If she does not tell the family it is not building a mutual trust between her and the family. As a childcare owner you want to build a trusting relationship with the family so if there are issues you can bring them up and have an open honest relationship. Keeping this information from the family is not being an advocate for Lily of her family. The code also states to share information about each child’s education and development with families and to help them understand and appreciate the current knowledge base of the early childhood profession.

The rationale for being “honest” about what happened is that you owe it to the family to tell them this information. By telling the family you are being truthful and honest to the family. By doing this you setting up for an open and honest relationship. The child care owner is also just thinking negatively about the situation and the family being upset that they didn’t get to see Lily’s first step. The owner isn’t thinking about how happy the family could be that she got it on video and that they do get to see it because the owner got it on video for them to have forever. Being honest is always the best option when working with children and families. The disadvantage is that you are not being truthful and honest to the family and are withholding important developmental information from the family. The owner is also setting herself up for more issues if she doesn’t tell the family. For example if the family finds out that she took the video and didn’t tell the family about it. I don’t think there is a rationale for withholding the information about what happened because there is no benefit to withholding information to families.

After my friend’s explanation of the parents, I think the best thing for them is for the childcare owner to talk to the family when they come in and tell them what happened today. Ask the family if they would like to see the video. I also think before the child is enrolled the childcare owner could talk to the family and say I understand that your child’s care is very important to all of us here. Is there something that we can do to help you make the transition easier or if there is a way we can track your child’s development while you’re at work? I think the best thing to do is to have the ok before you take videos or photos. At my workplace when you fill out the child application you fill in the box that says yes, my child may be photographer or videos or No, my child may not be photographed or videoed. This will let you know before the situation occurs if you can take videos. The credible source that I would use for this situation is the NAEYC code of ethical conduct. When dealing with children and families it is best to put your personal opinions and biases aide and focus on the problem at hand. I would use what I have learned that it based on research not just what I think is the best for the situation. I would still use the code of ethical conduct to solve this dilemma. My final suggestion is to tell Lily’s family and use the code to help guide you.

I have never experienced a dilemma like this one in real life. I have experienced helping families solve problems in the classroom by being a school age after school teacher. To come up with a conclusion for this dilemma I used my knowledge that I learned in child development classes and internships. In multiple of my courses in Child Development we have done assignment with sample ethical dilemma and came up with responses on how to answer them using the code of ethical conduct. I have not applied this information in a real life situation yet. Courses that helped me come up with a solution for this dilemma were Observation Techniques, Child Development Practicum, Professionalism in Child Development, and Child Development Senior Seminar.