SLO II. Child and Environmental Assessment and Study

Students will demonstrate knowledge of assessment issues and perform qualitative and quantitative assessments of children and their environments.

An important part of working with children is formal and informal assessment. Formal assessment is a set questions or qualifications that need to be met. Informal assessment is observations and personal interactions. Assessments can be used for anything from understanding what the students or a child knows already or finding out if a student or child has a disability. Throughout my education in child development I have learned how to use assessments and which type of assessment should be used in a specific situation. One assessment I learned about is the Classroom Assessment Scoring System for Pre-K. This assessment is used to assess interactions between students and adults. In a class I studied assessments and the class is titled issues in assessment children and families. To understand this assessment I wrote a paper, did a presentation with a group and assessed a pre-school classroom located on Chico State campus. I am able to use this assessment in the future in a classroom I am working in or to assess a classroom I want my children to attend. I learned many new assessment tools and reasons for assessment during one specific class but my true journey of assessment started in the first child development class I ever took titled Observational Techniques. I learned how objective observations can be used as an assessment tool when working with children. Through this class I completed many observations and learned what truly objective observations include and what not to include.

All of my child development courses have expanded on my knowledge of what assessment is and different types of assessment. My experience with internships has given me the opportunity to use the assessments I have been studying in my course work. One assessment that I was able to use was the Desired Results Development Profile which is a list of behaviors a child should demonstrate or be mastering based on their age. I conducted my assessment on an infant over about three months. The assessment is very detailed and expanded my ability to assess children while interacting with them. I was able to focus on one child and objectively observe their actions and their reactions to others. This opportunity is going to help me in the future because many child care facilities use the Desired Results Development Profile to assess their children throughout the school year. This profile can be used by parents and teachers and is very important for teachers to know where each child is when they start and end the school year.

Other classes that have helped me expand my knowledge of assessment are the classes I took associated with special education. In these classes the teachers have talked about the assessments needed to classify a student in special education. The assessment to qualify a student for special education services is not done by the teacher but it is important to know what students could be going through if I was to recommend for them to be assessed for a learning or developmental disability. Knowing about the assessment process and what my students could possibly be going through is important. As a future teacher it is important to know all the assessments my students are going to be affected by. Another assessment tool I learned about is the learning styles inventory that can be used with older students. The inventory is useful for teachers, parents and students. This assessment would be helpful to know how my students’ best learn even though I would use all types of instruction. If a student was having trouble learning a specific topic I would be able to review how I taught the material and the learning style of that particular student and compare the two. This is also helpful for students to know specifically for studying and when they are learning on their own.

Assessment has become a topic I am interested in and a way to get to know the people I am working with. The most important thing I have learned is that there is a never ending list of different types of assessment and there is an assessment for almost any purpose. Also an assessment can be formal or informal. Understanding assessment has completely changed the way I view them and how I feel about giving them to students. Assessments have become more important to me and helped me understand how I have changed and how students change over a school year.

The first assignment that shows my knowledge of assessment is the developmental profile used for the Desired Results Development Profile. This is the brief description of what was found using the DRDP. This shows my understanding of the information collected using the assessment. The DRDP is longer and harder to read and this summary shows that I understood the results and used the assessment correctly.

The second assignment is my write up about the observation using the CL.A.S.S assessment. This paper is an explanation of the results during the six observations. This paper is the most recent use of an assessment tool through my education. This assessment was done with a partner so the results are compared.