SLO III Developmental Context Reflective Narrative

*SLO III.  Developmental Context*

*Students will demonstrate knowledge of the multiple environmental contexts in which children grow and develop, and will be able to analyze systems that support children’s well-being.*

Children grow and develop ideally when multiple contexts of the environment are thriving cohesively. The context in which the child resides can determine the outcomes of that child. What surprises me the most in this area is that there are so many different areas of development that form the framework of the context. There are internal and external factors that constitute the developmental context of the child. External factors include: socio economic status, education level of the child and of the parents, culture, attachment, etc. Internal factors include: gender, resiliency, self-control, and temperament, etc.

I was introduced to the multitude of dimensions that shape gender in a capstone class on child gender and sexuality.  Gender is influenced by: biological, psychological, social, emotional, cultural, and cognitive factors. I examined many case studies, articles as well as personal videos and blogs that contained information on these issues. After viewing this information I reflected about the content and what I learned and presented the reflection in the form of essays. This experience facilitated my knowledge of the developmental context and the effects on the child by showcasing the experiences of others dealing with gender and sexuality outside of the societal norm.

In a children’s global diversity class I gained insight within the tabooed issue of child abuse. The environment or home in which the child develops can have detrimental effects or it can positively support growth and development. The Lost Boy by Dave Pelzer is a firsthand journey through this young boys experience dealing with the negative circumstances that his life revolves around. This is a prime example in which the context has a negative effect on the well-being of the child. I was able to encase myself with this issue and fully explore what it meant to be in Dave’s’ position and develop a summative paper as well as reflectively addressing Dave’s’ circumstance and relating it to other class material.

            Bronfenbrenners’ Ecological System Theory explains the different systems that factor into the contextual development of a child. This theory is still one that proves difficult for me to completely comprehend at times. To me, it seems as if a certain issue doesn’t always fit into one specific system. It seems that some issues are broader than the systems and spread amongst more than one layer.

            Exploring different cultures and perspectives can bring new insight into many situations. As a lifelong learner I intend to travel and immerse myself in a different context to further my knowledge. I will benefit from working with diverse groups of people in my career, and each situation will provide new learning experiences.