Reflective Narrative Two: Child and Environment Assessment and Study

*Student will demonstrate knowledge of assessment issues and performance qualitative and quantitative assessment of children and their environments.*

 Working with children requires a variety of assessments that have a wide range of topics. Familiarizing yourself with the different assessment tools used in child development can be beneficial to helping know where a child falls developmentally. Remaining up-to-date with current studies and assessments related to child development will not only help the children you are serving, but yourself as well, in better understanding the wants and needs to children.

 Throughout all of my courses in child development I have really grown to understand and appreciate the importance of assessment tools. When I first entered the child development field I did not have any understanding of what assessments were, or how they worked in relation to child development. Over my time spent in various internships and classes I have seen first hand the importance of assessing children in various settings. From testing intellectual ability to gross and fine motor development, there is an assessment out there for every aspect of a child’s development.

 My personal growth in demonstrating knowledge of assessment issues and performing assessments first started in the Observation Techniques course. This is where I was first introduced to concepts such as observation notes and checklists, both of these acting as a baseline for many assessment tools. From initially learning about these concepts, along with many others, I was able to apply what I learned and incorporate it into my various internships by observational curriculum, completion of a Desired Results Developmental Profile, and completion of an inquiry project.

 One important thing that I learned about assessment tools is the need for them in every classroom. Every different type of assessment tool is crucial in helping to understand where children are developmentally and if they need further assistance or testing in the classroom in order to help them reach their full potential. One thing that I struggle to understand about assessment tools is which assessments to use in different situations. There are many different assessments available that measure a variety of different things. It is hard to know and understand which ones are needed at specific times.

 One assignment that shows my understanding of assessment tools is the completion of the Desired Results Developmental Profile that was completed through my internship at the Associated Students Child Development Lab. The assignment combined qualitative and quantitative data into one comprehensive document. Through observation notes and ranking, it provides a comprehensive look at a child’s developmental progress.

 Another assignment that shows my understanding of assessments is the final pre and post surveys that were given to the student staff of the Infant room during my inquiry projects for my internship in the Associated Students Child Development Lab. The survey was given as a final assessment of our inquiry project to the staff to rate how well our inquiry worked. The pre survey was a free response questionnaire and our post survey was a Likert-Type questionnaire. The pre survey addressed how the staff felt about child and teacher interactions on a day-to-day basis. After implementation of our inquiry project we presented a post survey to the staff, which measured how effective they believed the implementations of our inquiry was at increasing child and teacher interactions.