Reflective Narrative 5: Critical Thinking

*Students will apply critical thinking and scientific methods to thinking (including logical and empirical reasoning) to issues regarding children’s well being.*

 To think critically one must take into consideration a lot of different aspects. In order to apply critically thinking skills to a situation it requires even more consideration. A huge aspect of critically thinking is how one perceives different situations and environments and how they react to them. In the child development field we are pushed to think critically in every aspect of a child’s development.

 Throughout my time in the child development field, I have had many experiences that have pushed me to think critically and apply my knowledge to real life scenarios. Many of the courses I have taken have explored various theories about development where the theorists take into account every aspect of the developing child. Logical and empirical thought have been a huge factor in developing my own critical thinking through courses dealing with scientific evidence and applying it to real life experience. My work inside and outside the classroom has helped me to develop my critical thinking skills and allow me to examine situations based on what I have acquired through various courses.

 One thing that I have struggled with in this area is the courses that I have taken that deal with inquiry in child development and scientific method. A lot of the information is hard for me to process and takes some time for me to understand. I find a lot of the time I am just barley scratching the surface regarding certain issues and topics when I should be thinking more critically.

 As a member of the child development profession, I can offer a better understanding of how to apply these specific critical thinking skills to real life scenarios. I have pushed myself to overcome my struggles and to think critically inside and outside the classroom. I strive to better my learning in this area because I find it is the hardest for me to comprehend.

 One assignment that demonstrates my understanding of critical thinking was a curriculum response that was done for my internship at the Associated Students Child Development Lab. This assignment involved taking into consideration each child’s strengths and weaknesses and planning the curriculum for the day that addressed each child’s strengths and weaknesses. The assignment required us to think critically about individual children and take into consideration the best outcome for their learning.

 Another assignment that required critical thinking was the inquiry project that was completed as part of the internship at the Associated Students Child Development Lab. This assignment required us to evaluate the classroom and the children and find something that needed to be changed or altered in order to benefit the development of the children. For my groups project we decided to alter the environment around the changing table in order to increase child and teacher interactions.