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CHLD 392

Self-Assessment 1

1. What are your strengths and challenges as you work with the children each day? To answer this question, you may find it helpful to review your e-journals since the beginning of the semester.

As my experience in the childcare field grows I continue to see my strengths develop, but I am also becoming aware of challenges I have when working with children. One strength that I have is passion; I genuinely care about children and how they learn. Working with children always puts a smile on my face no matter what my mood is and that is something that I have grown to love. Another strength of mine is I know how to have fun and be silly with children. Being able to act silly and play exciting games with children while engaging them in learning is a large part of working with children. One challenge I have working with children is learning how to be patient. Not every child learns quickly and some children have behavior problems that require a lot of patience to deal with.

1. Using the Guides to Speech and Action as a framework, describe an episode based on your experience in your placement this semester where you used a specific guide effectively when working with children. Be sure to describe what happened in detail and the number of the guide you used.

It was time for lunch and Rauly was more interested in staying in the classroom and playing with a toy stuffed bear rather than going into the other room for lunch. Instead of saying something along the lines of, “Do you want to put the bear down and come to lunch?” or, “It’s time for lunch, okay?” I told him that it is lunch time and he needs to come sit down. In this episode I used Guide in Speech #2. “Give the child a choice only when you intend to leave the situation up to the child”.

1. Using the Guides to Speech and Action as a framework, describe an episode this semester where you felt you were not effective in guiding a child (or children’s) behavior. In detail, describe how you could have used a specific guidance technique (using a number) from the guides in this situation.

One day after naptime I was helping Lona get art supplies to draw a picture. I was listening to her explain to me what her picture was about and then she asked me how to draw a door to put on her house. I drew a door on another piece of paper to demonstrate for her and then asked her to draw one on her picture. Instead of drawing her own idea of a door she drew one that looked exactly like mine. In this situation I should have kept in mind Guide in Action #8 which states, “Avoid making models in any art medium for the children to copy”.

1. What are you learning about yourself in terms of your strengths in working with children? What are you learning about yourself in terms of challenges? Please be specific.

As stated in question number 1, my strengths when it comes to working with children are my passion for this career and my ability to have fun with children. I am learning that I really enjoy working and being around children because my strengths allow me to have the best time possible when I am with children. I am also learning that I have a good sense of humor when it comes to children, they are always making me laugh just by being themselves. When it comes to challenges I am learning I need to be more patient and take my time when resolving conflicts between children and working with children who have behavior problems. I have also learned that at times getting children to listen to me can be a big challenge such as when a child is misbehaving and I tell them to stop sometimes they continue in their behavior.

1. What else do you want to learn about yourself? Write one specific thing that you will be working on when you are in the classroom this week.

Through this experience I want to learn more about myself in terms of being a quick thinker. When children are not listening to me I want to be able to comeback with a statement that will make myself seem more like a teacher who they need to listen to. This week I’m going to observe how the more experienced teachers handle situations where the children aren’t listening to them and I am going to try the tactics out when the situation arises.

1. What would be most helpful to you right now?

As of right now knowing effective strategies to use when children are not taking directions from me would be the most helpful.