*SLO V. Critical Thinking Scenario Assignment*

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

Your good friend has opened her own child care home and is providing care for several young children in addition to her own. You receive a call from her and she says

“I have a dilemma. One of the children that I care for full time, Lily, just took her first step! It was such an exciting moment! I could tell it was going to happen so I ran and got the camera and recorded the whole thing! But then when I started thinking about sharing this with her parents, I began to have second thoughts. Her parents are so involved in her care, they ask so many questions, and mom, especially, has very mixed feelings about Lily being in child care and not being able to spend more time with her. Maybe they won’t be so excited that she took her first step at my house instead of when she was with them. Would it be dishonest if I didn’t share this information with them?

**You bring this issue to your own staff meeting, anonymously of course, and ask your staff members to share their response. One staff member feels strongly that the family should be told and cites their reasons. Another feels equally as strong that the family should not be told and gives their rationale.**

**Now you need to make a decision about how to respond.**

My immediate response is to tell the parents about Lily’s first steps. I feel this way because if I were Lily’s parents, I personally would want to know. I may be sad that I missed it, but I would want to know about my daughter’s accomplishments. I would be upset if a teacher lied to me about my child and if I was the teacher, I would feel so bad about lying to a parent.

The main issue in this scenario is choosing whether to tell Lily’s parents or to keep this information from them. Two co-workers are disagreeing in their opinions about the subject. The friend who called wanted another opinion so I brought it up to my staff to discuss.

Being honest about Lily walking in the classroom might upset her parents since they were not there for the momentous occasion. I would feel really bad for lying to her parents. Her parents could be very upset if they found out we lied to them. They could also take Lily out of our childcare program out of spite.

Withholding the information from Lily’s parents could save an awkward conversation with them. They may never know their daughter took her first steps in child-care. The disadvantages would be lying and potentially ruining a family-staff relationship over being dishonest.

Since her parents are so involved in her care, I think telling them would be best. They probably ask a lot of questions about her day and want to know every little thing that happened that day, so telling them about their daughter walking is necessary. She may go home that night and walk again. Her parents may have missed the first moment but they will experience it again.

I would take them aside where no people are and calmly explain to them the situation. I would tell them how sorry I am to be sharing this information but I felt they needed to know. I would maybe ask some other moms how they would feel about someone else telling them about their child taking their first steps in child-care and figure out a good way from them.

My personal opinions about this situation are that I would feel awful about lying and I’m not sure I could lie to a family. I think a child taking their first steps is an important milestone but it is not worth losing a child and business over. I would tell the parents about Lily’s first steps.

My final suggestion is to always see both sides of an issue. Everyone has their own opinions and it’s important to hear both sides and get outside perspectives. Take some time to figure out the best solution and don’t rush.

When I was younger, my parents worked a lot so I was in child-care for most of the day and my dad would pick me up around 3. I’m sure my parents missed a lot of my brother and myself growing up. I’m sure they were upset but work is important and so is socializing with other children.

I have not applied the information in my response to a real life situation. I think I would if I was ever in this type of situation.

Working at the preschool on campus, I see how involved some parents are and how they want to know everything that happens to their child. I am a really bad liar so I feel like I would have to tell the parents anything that happens.