Reflective Narrative One: Foundations of Child Development

Students will demonstrate knowledge of the theoretical and empirical foundations of the discipline

Throughout my child development education, each course has increased my knowledge in understanding and demonstrating empirical and theoretical foundation of the discipline. Two courses that helped demonstrate the knowledge of empirical foundations was Child Development 251, Observational Techniques, and Child Development 282, Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum for Children. In these courses we discussed the use of the document Desired Results Development Profile (DRDP).

My Observational Techniques course focused on observation based evidence in order to complete the DRDP and an Individual Child Report. I have grown in the area through the instructions and guidance by the professor and the assignments that have been assigned. Through the course I was able to practice taking anecdotal notes and applying the evidence that I observed to the DRDP. Observations of children and family behavior has changed how I think about children and families greatly. For instance, I am able to look at a child’s development more objectively rather than applying judgment onto a situation.

The second course Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum for Children provided the opportunity to be create curriculum in relation to the DRDP. At the end of the course there was a final curriculum write up of a program. We were directed to create a dream program and create a curriculum plan for the first week of the program. I was able to create a curriculum that was in line with the DRDP and developmentally appropriate for the children that would be involved in the program. When creating the curriculum planning I had to consider the children’s background and general knowledge.

Before I explored child development and theories I would observe children and families and be able to see that the child was having fun, but only the surface value of the situation. When I observe a child today I see where that child is in their physical development, socio-emotionally, and cognitively. I am able to observe a child objectively and gain an understanding on their development.

A theory that I have learned in my courses and has changed the way I understand human behavior was Erik Erikson’s psychosocial stages of development. Before learning the theory I did not think about the infancy stage as an important stage for building trust. However, this theory has changed the way that I understand human behavior because as one goes through each stage it impacts the next stage that is reached. For instance, in infancy during Stage 1 the crisis is trust v. mistrust indicates that if the infant does not trust at this age then it would impact Stage 2. The theory provided me a better understanding about the relationship between the child’s developmental stages and how it affects future developmental stages.

Erikson’s psychosocial theory and Bronfenbrenner’s ecological systems theory will guide my practices in the future as I continue through my child development career. I have applied Erikson’s theory throughout my interactions with children that I work with. Bronfenbrenner’s theory will guide me when I think of the child’s life holistically. The model of Bronfenbrenner’s theory will help outline the systems that affect the child in their daily life.