*SLO III. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the multiple environmental contexts in which children grow and develop, and will be able to analyze systems that support children’s well-being.*

Considering the environment, which a child is exposed to can significantly impact their development. There are many factors to consider within the environment that the child is exposed to including their socio-economic status, school of which the child is attending, and lastly, location; is the child exposed to a safe environment that will support positive development or is it a negative environment that will expose the child to negative risks. While keeping in mind the environment and how significant of an impact it may have on a child there is another key factor that affects children’s development that coincides with the environment and that is whom the child is exposed to within the environment. This may include parents/caregivers, educators, peers, and any additional support groups that the child is involved with.

Due to previous courses within my higher education time I have grown drastically within the area of children and how their environment plays a key role in their development. One fundamental course that enriched my knowledge would be the course Children in a Changing World. This course heighten my understanding of how important children’s environment is as well as how children can be greatly affected by a negative environment that does not meet the ends of the child. Children from all around the world are exposed to many different environments and how those families deal with it is the underlying factor of how well the child or children will develop. There are many risks factors to take into consideration as well as how cultures deal with situations in many different ways. Another course that enriched my understanding of how children develop within an environment that they are continuously exposed to would be the course Observational Techniques. Throughout this course I became well-informed on how crucial it is for children’s learning environment to not only meet the needs of several children but the environment of the classroom is to meet specific guidelines that foster children’s cognitive, social, emotional and physical development.

The one thing I learned the most about how children grow and develop within multiple environments is that not every child is the same nor is their family. Throughout my higher education I have had the opportunity of multiple internships as well as courses that have shaped my understanding of children and their environment. Throughout my internships as well as courses I have learned that families, cultures, and children deal with situations in a variety of ways. There are some children and families who are exposed to many different environments, some that enhance and support a child’s development and some environments that hinder and slow the process of their development. Along with some families that are only exposed to one type of environment, which, can either, be a positive or negative environment. With all of the information that I have learned, the one thing that fascinates me is how resilient some children are and despite everything that they have been exposed to they are still able to make a turn for the better.

Being a life-long learner I will continue to research and gather information regarding children’s development based on their environment. There are both positive and negative aspects of children’s exposure to multiple environments, but by staying up-to-date I only hope to encourage and promote children’s environments into a much more positive experience along with gathering additional information to assist children in getting their needs met through the proper exposure of the environment.

One thing that I have learned to appreciate is the support and patience that some families bring along. There are many challenges when working with children, but by parents allowing childcare providers to teach and instill values within their children is a key role that advances their development. By parents displaying their support and patience to their child’s educator they are assisting the process along that we as educators know that what we are doing is right and the basic fundamental lessons and values that we are instilling will be the core groundwork for future development.

The first assignment was based in the course Children in a Changing World. The assignment that really helped fostered my understanding of how an environment that a child is exposed can significantly affect them in a positive or negative way. I was to select and read a book based on a true story of a child or children’s experience that was completely different from my own and I was to expand and demonstrate my understanding of the diverse experiences of children throughout the world. The book opened my eyes to how much one can experience trauma throughout their life as well as how resilient that one individual can end up being based on their exposure to such a terrifying amount of trauma.

The second assignment was based in the course Methods of Inquiry in Child Development. Throughout this course we were to select and research a current topic within the Child Development field. The topic that I chose to research and elaborate on was based on the Effect of Bullying. Throughout this topic I discussed many environments of which a child is exposed to and how those environments can greatly influence a child who is being bullied. While researching the topic I found that the environment of which a child is exposed to can actually determine if the child is at a higher risk for being bullied rather than bullying another child.