Critical Thinking

In my higher education, I have learned how to apply critical thinking skills to help solve issues regarding children’s well-being. Learning how to critically think and being able to use the scientific method can be very beneficial. Through my Child Development courses, I have learned in depth about critical thinking, scientific methods and how they are valued in the field of Child Development.

Critical thinking is the ability to think clearly and make reasoned judgements. Throughout my Child Development courses, I have learned that there are six steps to critical thinking, also known as Bloom’s Taxonomy of Thinking. The first step of critical thinking is obtaining knowledge. This is the ability to recall and identify the main idea. The second step is comprehension; being able to understand and retain the new knowledge. This is a time where you are to relate the new knowledge that you have acquired to knowledge you already know. The third step is application. During the application process you are required to use your knowledge and apply it to new situations. The fourth step is analysis. During this step you break down and pull things apart. The fifth step is synthesis. This phase involves putting together the parts analyzed and creating something original. Lastly, the sixth step is evaluation. Evaluation occurs once knowledge that made it an original is fully understood. This is a time where you make judgement and decide whether you can give or withhold a belief. Learning the six steps of critical thinking has helped me understand critical thinking more clearly and has helped me problem solve more efficiently.

The steps of critical thinking are very similar to those of the scientific method. Scientific method requires observations, recording data and analyzing data in a way that can be duplicated by other scientists. The six steps to the scientific method are: ask a question, do background research, construct a hypothesis, test your hypothesis by doing an experiment, analyze your data and draw conclusions and communicate your results. In addition, scientific method uses empirical reasoning and logical reasoning to try to produce useful and reliable information. Empirical reasoning is based on observation and experimentation, whereas, logical reasoning uses systematic steps to arrive at a conclusion. They are very different from each other but are both significant and useful.

In my Child Development course, CHLD 353: Methods of Inquiry, we were assigned to conduct research on an issue that regarded children’s well-being. During the process of my research, I was able to apply the critical thinking skills that I learned. Conducting this scientific research definitely was an experience that had facilitated the most of my growth in understanding how to apply critical thinking and scientific methods of thinking to issues regarding children’s well-bring.

Through my experience, I have learned that critical thinking is beneficial and is important to implement when dealing with issues that involve children. Critical thinking helps solve problems systematically, evaluates arguments in a well thought out way and helps understand the logical connections between ideas. Critical thinking encourages me to engage in reflective and independent thinking.

Anything regarding a child’s well- being should be taken serious and evaluated efficiently. I feel that critical thinking skills should be expected and implemented throughout the whole process of problem solving. Therefore, as a member of the child development profession, I am committed to think critically, analyze and evaluate.