*SLO V. Critical Thinking*

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

My good friend opened up a child care in her home and a child, Child A, began to take her first step in the presence of my friend. My friend is unsure of what to say to Child A’s parents because they are very involved with her care. However, my friend anticipated it and grabbed a camera to record the special moment. My immediate response is that I hope that my friend had permission from the parents to film their child. I understand that it is such a special and exciting moment, but photographing and filming children is a sensitive subject and should only be allowed if there was permission granted by the child’s parents.

The main issue, however, is that my friend feels there is a dilemma and is unsure if she should or shouldn’t disclose that occurrence. I believe that she needs to be honest and tell the child’s parents. Being honest is telling the whole truth and not withholding any information. The disadvantage is that the parents (the mother in particular) may feel left out or liked they are missing out on their child’s milestones.

If my friend were to withhold the information, then I would think of them as dishonest. My friend may feel better about their future encounters with the child’s parents if the child begins to walk (again) in front of the parents, but it is not the right thing to do. My friend knows what happened and they would likely be reminded subconsciously of it when they see Child A or her parents. The best thing to do in any situation is to be honest, even if there may be consequences for doing so.

Given my friend’s explanation of Child A’s parents, I am sure they would like to witness the milestone first-hand. But that wasn’t the case so I think being honest is the best thing to do. Because the mother has mixed feelings about the child care, she probably would want to spend more time with her child but perhaps my friend could help Child A’s mother accept that Lily is growing and that the mother is great for being so supportive but it will be hard to witness every milestone that Lily goes through. The NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct is a credible and reliable source. In there, it mentions the ethical responsibilities to families and it mentions to create an environment of trust. If my friend chooses to withhold this information, they are not demonstrating professionalism, trust, or ethical conduct.

After reflecting on the issues at-hand, I truly believe being honest is the best thing to do. I understand that there may be some disadvantages to this but the disadvantages seem much greater for withholding this information. I think that if my friend had permission to document Child A, then they should show that video to Child A’s parents because it would make the parents feel like they were a part of it and they could still witness the first steps without having to have been there. If there was no permission, my friend should not be filming and would need to tell the parents about the milestone without showing them the video.

The personal bias that I bring is that I feel honesty is the best thing to do in all situations. I was raised to be honest and was always appreciated for being honest even at times when lying would have been easier. Even after I recognize the bias that I bring to this issue, I have to be true to myself and others and being honest is how I can accomplish that. If I were in the situation, I would have to tell Child A’s parents that she began to take steps at my child care center.