SLO V Critical Thinking Reflective Narrative

*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.*

Throughout my college career, which includes internship experiences and Child Development class, I have been able to about critical thinking and scientific methods of thinking and apply them to real-life experiences. I have also learned about the scientific methods of thinking, which include logical and empirical reasoning, and how to apply them to issues regarding children’s well-being. Among the abundance of knowledge gained, the most important skill I have gained has been the ability to differentiate between the personal and subjective theories about Child Development and the scientific theories of development rooted in in empirical research and based on best practices.

Specific Child Development courses that aided in increasing my bank of knowledge included Observational Techniques, and a Child Development seminar about current issues. Professional guest speakers came to the class and spoke about specific scientific methods of thinking, which are rooted in empirical research and evidenced as best practices. The professional guests spoke about how they applied certain theories to the specific issues relating to children’s well like child abuse and neglect, health deficiencies, etc. These issues varied, and were based on the specific field of Child Development in which the professional worked in.

My internship experiences have helped me to differentiate between personal and subjective theories and empirical based scientific theories. Most of my experiences have involved student staff, whose major is not Child Development. I have been given opportunities to discuss about established scientific methods of child development and how they related to a child’s development (attachment theory and social and emotional development). This is the area about this particular Student Learning Objective that I have grown the most in because at one point in my college career I struggled to understand and apply different scientific methods of thinking.

Apart from the different scientific methods of thinking (logical and empirical reasoning), I also learned about the corresponding ethical use of technology, and knowing how to go about that in the professional fields that surround the Child Development discipline. I remember a specific guest speaker who shared his experiences and about how it is very important to remember the ethical use of technology, because it is vital for Child Development professionals to abide the code of ethics.

As a member of the Child Develop profession, I can offer my personal experiences and knowledge to other individuals who are linked (directly or indirectly) to children and their development. I can illustrate on my own personal and subjective theories, which revolve around Gardener’s theory of Multiple Intelligences, as well as other empirically based theories. There are many issues concerning children’s well-being that can be made relevant through the education and discussion of said theories, as well as other best practices.

I can also offer my gained knowledge pertaining to information technology appropriate to the Child Development discipline, as well my understanding of and ethical use of technology. The knowledge gained throughout my college career will influence my future interactions with fellow collogues about important issues concerning children’s well-being, whether it pertains to one specific child or children in a specific population, age, etc.

The following documents provide evidence to my gain understanding of how to appropriately use technology to provide adequate child observations that abide by specific guidelines. An in-class worksheet, which was done during the Observational Techniques Child Development class, was the first step in appropriately using technology. Figuring out what was observational facts and what were subjective inferences was a challenge for me when I declared Child Development as my major.

Another document that serves as evidence is a finished draft of an observation on a child. There were many guidelines to follow when typing out the final observation. The guidelines that are set forth are used to ensure that no personal biases are included. The child observation document was part of semester long project that focused on correctly using technology appropriate to the Child Development discipline.