* **Date, place and time of meeting and the time of your participation**
* My parent conference meeting took place on May 8, 2015 at 9:00 in the morning in the Willow Room.
* **Teacher leading conference, name of child being discussed and parent(s)/guardian(s) attending**
* Lauren was the teacher to lead the conference. Since David was my target child I was able to attend his parent conference. His mom was the only one who attended.
* **Purpose of meeting and a detailed description of items/concepts discussed.**
* The purpose of the meeting was to discuss David’s strengths and weaknesses. Since David will be moving onto another child care facility Lauren emphasized to his mom that he will do great no matter where he ends up. David’s strengths are language, cognition, identifying emotions, and health and safety. Lauren told David’s mom he has a big vocabulary and he likes to repeat everything you say. As for cognition his attention maintenance is very good especially for his age. He can be really engaged with an activity for a long period of time and only stay focused on that activity until it is time to do transition. She mentioned David cares about his safety and knows what is and is not safe for his body. His weakness is he needs to build self-confidence because he has a shy personality. Then David’s mom said she was the same way when she was little. She said that David gets shy around his own family and the way they deal with him and build up his confidence is by leaving him alone, not staring at him or bugging him.
* **What kinds of things were used to make the parent comfortable? Refreshments? Food? What else?**
* There was not food or refreshments available however, the conference took place in an enclosed environment, the nap room with the door closed for confidentiality.
* **Estimate how much of the conversation was by the teacher and how much by the parent.**
* I would say it was 60% teacher and 40% adult. David’s mom engaged quite a bit and she responded when it was appropriate.
* **What did you learn about the child, parent(s) or family? What did you learn about how the center/teachers can best help this child, parents or family?**
* I learned that David is different when he is at home versus being at school. David’s mom expressed how much she appreciates the teachers that have helped David. She really likes how she can pop in at any time in the observation room and watch what her son is doing. What I have learned from the center mainly in the Willow Room is that they let each child explore their interest. There are toys that are out just because the teachers know that the children enjoy them. Another thing that I learned that is having primary caregivers for each child has really helped out.
* **What did you learn about parent conferences? Teacher preparation? Communication skills? The emotional tenor of the conference?**
* I learned that leading up to a parent conference lots of observation goes into it before you can relay how a parents child is progressing and how they can help their child in areas they are not strong in. The preparation that went into the conference was putting all the observation notes together and providing the parents with a flyer about development and where they should be. David’s mom was given a flyer that had information and cognitive and social development. It was not an emotional conference besides Lauren expressing how much she will miss David and how she has watched him grow up in their classroom.
* **If you had been the teacher, would you have changed anything?**
* Honestly no, I liked the way Lauren approached the parent and how she delivered the message. I think I would provide muffins or something since I like to bake but overall I think the conference went well.
* **If you had been the parent, would you have changed anything?**
* No, all the information that I needed to know was given to me and ways that I could help my child out. There was even a flyer given out. As a parent I think that is great because it gives me something to read about a developing child and where he/she should be.
* **Rate your ability to perform a parent conference alone at this point in your career on a scale of 1-3 with 1=not very confident to 3=very confident. Why? What strengths do you possess? What challenges do you face?**
* I would give myself a 2. The reason for that is I have lots of knowledge about the DRDP and I feel like I can relay what I have observed through observation and other peoples observation to the parent(s). The challenge that I would face is being nervous and maybe the wording I would use if I had a difficult child.
* **Use the article *Partnerships with Learning: Conferencing with Families* by Holly Seplocha (available in the Parent Events folder on Blackboard) as a guide for responding to this question. What is one thing mentioned in the article, that you have not described in earlier prompts that either you felt was very well done or missing from the parent conference you observed?**
* One thing I have not described is be culturally appropriate. Even though David is bilingual Lauren and Ashley respected his language and actually learned important words that would be useful in the classroom.
* **What did you learn about teacher-parent relationships in programs for young children?**
* What I learned is it is very important to have communication coming from both the parent and the teacher. It makes it easier for the teachers and parents to talk to one another without having conflict.