**SLO 5 Critical Thinking**

*Students will apply critical thinking and scientific methods of thinking*

*(including logical and empirical reasoning) to issues regarding children’s well-being*

The ability to apply critical thinking and scientific methods of thinking to issues regarding children’s well-being means that child development professionals use their common sense and learned reasoning skills to help children and their families receive the best possible services. The classes that I have taken during my time at CSU Chico have given me knowledge and skills to both logically and empirically reason the issues that relate to children and their well being.

1. What comprises critical thinking skills and abilities?

Logical and empirical reasoning comprises critical thinking skills and abilities this is made up of common sense, learned skills and handling issues and problem solving. Critical thinking is also strongly based on the ability to be creative and resourceful in how you solve and hand problems that deal with children and their families.

2. What experiences have you had that facilitated your growth in understanding this learning objective?

In my current internship at Butte Baby Steps I have grown in my understanding of critical thinking because I observe families of babies and young children receiving advice, assistance and solutions to problems in order to improve their well being and to ensure that they receive quality resources to make their lives easier and better. Critical thinking is done here when the staff sees and problem and they brainstorm ways to come up with solutions to solve these dilemmas so that the family may be benefited via these services.

3. What I have struggled with in this area is . . .

What I have struggled with in this area is I have struggled in being quick to action and being successful when put on the spot to answer a question or solve a problem. Over the course of my education I have worked tirelessly to change this in myself. I have been pushed out of my comfort zones a number of times by myself, peers, and professors to work on problem solving skills and finding resolutions to needed issues.

4. The best of what I have achieved in this area is...

The best of what I have achieved in this area is that I view myself as a resourceful person. If I do not know the answer to a question or a resolution to a problem I find someone else that does or I access my resources to solve problems. During the course of my education I have been provided with an abundant amount of resources and people willing to offer a helping hands to people in need. I have made countless connections and networks with people in my field.

5. As a member of the child development profession, I can offer . . .

As a member of the child development profession, I can offer my absolute best in passion for children and their well being. I can access a variety of resources and people who can help and serve children and families. I can offer all of the knowledge and information I have learned and studied during my education I received in Child Development.

Reflection

I am amazed by how much I have grown in my critical thinking skills and abilities. I am pleased to say that the Child Development department at CSU Chico works hard in the area of critical thinking skills and resources. We are put to the test to be both creative and resourceful in that regard. I believe that these skills will serve a promising and positive purpose as I advance in my career and education.