**Reflective Portfolio Assignment Objective 2**

The first thing that came to mind when discussing testing and children was what I learned about Howard Gardner’s Theory of Multiple Intelligences. Howard Gardner’s theory is based on the different ways in which people learn and understand the world. He explains that there are seven different intelligences that people have, which include: language, logical-mathematical, spacial representation, musical thinking, kinesthetic, understanding of others, and understanding of ourselves. This theory has definitely made an impact of my opinion about the way children learn and should be assessed.

I believe that all children learn differently and that it is not fair or realistic to try and obtain a measurement of a child’s knowledge by using one form of testing for all children. I have had experience working with children in several different facilities that have helped me understand that all children have a different way of learning and expressing their knowledge. My child development 282 class also focused on the many different ways in which children learn. We focused on providing children with many opportunities to express themselves in a school setting. My experience as an intern through CHLD 392 also helped demonstrate the different ways children learn and are successful in a school setting. Some children were able to listen to the teacher’s instructions and follow them. Other children needed more guidance and an example of what to do in order to understand the instructions. One of the things that fascinates me the most when considering the different ways in which children learn, is the effectiveness of different teaching strategies. I have experienced first-hand, and have observed other teachers use different teaching strategies for different children. It is amazing to see how the slightly different use of language or a demonstration of something can make a major impact on what a child is learning and how successful the child is going to be in his or her learning. One thing that has fascinated me in this area is the power of positive intention when working with children. I have learned from personal experience that, when working with a child who may have challenging behaviors, it is extremely important to continue to focus on the child’s strengths rather than weaknesses. The more positive reinforcement a teacher gives a child on strengths, the more likely the child is to see themselves as a successful being and have self esteem and a better chance of reducing behavior problems. As a member of this profession I will continue to view each child as an individual with their own personal strengths and weaknesses. I take the time to understand what each child’s strengths, weaknesses, and challenges are and will try my best to support each child’s unique learning style in order to help children reach their full potential. As a life-long learner, I will continue to keep up on current research that is done to further understand how children learn and what teachers can do to help children be successful in school as well as other categories of their lives. I will also observe the other teachers I work with and try and adopt some of the teaching styles that seem to work well in a particular setting.

The observations and notes I took as an intern for CHLD 392 demonstrate what is mentioned above about children each having a different learning styles. My power point assignment for CHLD 392 also helps demonstrate the point that children learn differently through different types of play. My power point and findings for my inquiry demonstrate the fact that children respond differently when playing alone versus playing with a friend. My research paper for child development 353 also helps to demonstrate the fact that children are all individual and respond differently to different situations. I researched the topic of children and parental modeling of emotional displays in CHLD 353. Child Development 282 also included some assignments that were based on our internship. They had prompts regarding the different theorists we learned about and how children learn according to these theories.