**Reflective Prompt Objective 2**

My first thought after hearing this response from the child development specialist would be whether or not this was a credible organization. This comment coming from the specialist who has the responsibility of diagnosing children makes me wonder how he even got this position to begin with. This comment also makes me concerned for all of the children he has diagnosed. I would wonder how many children have been misdiagnosed through this organization if the specialist bases most of the diagnoses on his gut instinct.

I have learned that children often display behaviors that may lead towards one diagnosis, but then they may end up having a different delay than the one suggested through their behaviors. I have also learned that certain disorders, such as ADHD, can be easily misdiagnosed. This diagnosis requires a checklist to be filled out by a parent or teacher concerning a child’s ability to focus and these questions often apply to all children, and not just the child being diagnosed for ADHD. Often a child must be diagnosed several times, by different professionals in order to obtain an accurate or close to accurate diagnosis. Knowing this information, the response from the child development specialist in the prompt, is extremely concerning and makes me question his credibility and the credibility of the entire organization.

I would suggest to the professional that there are many ways of assessing children and I would express my concern toward his personal assessment test. I would mention that it is important to take each child for who they are. They are all individual and unique. I would explain that it is not fair to the children to simply put them in a box because they have similar symptoms to what has been observed before.

I would respond by asking him what types of diagnosis his gut instinct usually tells him about the children he sees. I would also ask him how he tests his accuracy in diagnosing children. I would ask if he does all of the paper work and formal diagnosing processes first before his gut instinct comes into play. I would also ask him how he is confident in his instinct and if he has ever been proven to have misdiagnosed a child.

My next step in this job would be to talk to the manager or supervisor of the organization. I would bring up the discussion I had with the child development specialist and explain my concern toward what was mentioned. I would then ask whether or not this is truly how things operate in this business or whether the specialist was exaggerating. Depending on the supervisor’s response, I would bring up some of the points I discussed above. I would then possibly consider finding a more professional and credible organization to work for.

I learned about much of the information contained in my response from my child development 354 middle childhood class. We read the book, “Boys Adrift” and there was a chapter dedicated to the over diagnosis and misdiagnoses of many children in the United States. This chapter mainly discussed ADHD and boys in elementary school.

I have applied the information I learned in working with children. I have noticed several children whom I have worked with having behavior issues or trouble focusing and following directions. I have observed other teachers or coworkers mention that these children “probably have ADHD” and should be medicated. I have brought up the points discussed above about the over diagnosis of ADHD and that children of a certain age are just hyper and teacher and child care providers need to develop an effective way to deal with this behavior.

This program does not sound like a good fit for your daughter. I understand your concern for finding an affordable childcare for your daughter, but there are plenty of other options out there. First of all, while the mother opening the facility may be a nice lady, she clearly does not understand the appropriate ways to teach children and foster a positive relationship between children and adults. It is important for children to be around adults who are engaging in activities with them and helping them learn and grow by using many different areas of development. Computer games are not appropriate learning tool for two year olds. Children this age are learning through their interactions with the world around them. In order for them to experience life and learn about their surroundings, they need to be able to touch things and learn that water is wet and sand is dry and grainy. They are not going to learn this through a computer game that is not age appropriate for them. This childcare facility sounds to me like a way for this mom to make some money without having to put in the effort of actually engaging with the children and teaching them about the environment using music, books, nature, and much more.

I learned about much of the information contained in my response in CHLD 392. We had to complete several reading responses and much of the reading focused on age appropriate curriculum and teaching. The reading discussed how children learn through the use of their senses. The articles also discussed the importance of adult-child relationships and how these relationships make a major impact of the successfulness of the child in and out of the classroom.

I have applied this information in real life situations before in different jobs I have worked at. The director at one program I worked for decided to buy a wii for the children to play with. I remember being upset that this was now part of the classroom because it didn’t involve direct contact with the children and adults or with the children and their peers. It just resulted in children having direct contact with a TV screen. I had a couple conversations about this with a few of my coworkers, but we did not agree on this topic.