**Reflective Prompt #6**

SLO VI. Developmental Context

Students will understand the multiple child rearing contexts in which children grow and develop. Students will appreciate and interpret how social class, parents, families, peers, type of children's programs, culture, societal changes, and communities influence the course of development.

My immediate first response is feeling sorry for the child. This child already has severe visual disabilities and probably has a hard time socializing and feeling like she fits in at the school environment especially when she is missing a lot of school already. My first response to the child’s mother is frustration. She is obviously a religious woman and everyone should have the right to believe whatever they want, but when it comes to her child’s health and well being, the mother should have the child’s best interest at heart.

I would tell the mom that this surgery is extremely important for her child’s health and safety and the health and safety of her peers at school. I would let her know that going to school and socializing and learning in a public school environment will help her child be successful. I would mention that it is important to have hope and a positive attitude about her child’s condition and I would also mention that she can still pray for her child, even if she does receive that surgery.

At the end of the home visit I would mention that importance of her child’s surgery for the health and safety of her child and the health and safety of the other children at the school. I would emphasize the fact that this surgery will allow for her child to attend school more regularly and her overall health will increase tremendously. I would also mention the fact that it’s important that the family makes it to the doctor appointments as they are scheduled. I would make sure to mention that everyone has the best interest of her daughter at heart.

I imagine that my supervisor and the physician may say similar things to the mother as I did. I’m sure that they would agree that the surgery is probably the best option for her daughter, considering her overall health and the fact that she is already missing a lot of school in her current condition. My supervisor would probably emphasize to me the importance of the mom attending the doctor appointments in order to ensure the health and safety of her daughter. The physician would probably mention that it is extremely important for the mom to attend her daughter’s appointments regularly in order to make progress toward her daughter’s health.

The most important consideration in this situation is the mother’s religious beliefs. It is important for all professionals to be sensitive to the mother’s beliefs and not insult her by disregarding them. However, it is also important that the mother realizes the significance of her daughter’s condition and the importance of the surgery.

My final rationale is for the mother to go through with the surgery for her child. If there were any way that the visual impairments of the child could be repaired or reversed, that would obviously be the first thing to consider. However, the physician has determined that the child’s eyes are not functional and therefore the surgery seems to be the best option for the child.

I have had friends from with different cultural and religious backgrounds throughout my life. Sometimes our values and beliefs have differed, but I have never had any major issues or disputes over my beliefs versus the beliefs of my friends. The home school and community course I took at Riverside Community college discussed families from all different backgrounds. In that class, we discussed the importance of making sure all families feel included in their child’s school, regardless of cultural or religious beliefs.