Natalie Ernst: Professional Portfolio Question 4

 The three core values that I feel most closely relate to me are: compassion, creativity, and learning. I feel strongly about all of these three core values and feel like they have each affected and influenced my life in many ways. As a child development professional, it is extremely important to bring your best self to the table because there is a lot of learning that goes on that we may not even know about.

 The first core value that I am going to write about is compassion. I can relate to this value in a variety of ways. Compassion is something that has been a big part of my life and I have found it to be an important value to have when it comes to working with children. While I had a very rich and happy childhood, I also dealt with some inner-personal conflicts as a child. I remember having extreme anxiety when my parents would go on a walk and leave me alone with my sister when I was about eight years old. I also remember being afraid to sleep over at a friend’s house as a child because I was afraid that I would be the last one to fall asleep or that I would miss my parents. While these memories may be small and somewhat insignificant to my life today, my struggles and life experiences growing up have shaped me into becoming the person that I am today. I believe that compassion is an important value to have because everyone needs compassion at one point or another. It is definitely something that children need and thrive from.

 The next value I selected is creativity. I have always considered myself a creative person. I love working with children because it gives you the chance to be creative. There are so many opportunities for creativity and originality. I had a job teaching a tumbling class in Durham once, and was given no direction or guidelines. All I was told was to entertain the children and their parents an actively engage them for one hour. This class was a challenge at first, but as I got more comfortable with it, it was one of the most fun and rewarding jobs I have had. I had the class create butterflies while they stretched and pretend to fly to an imaginary land. I had children stretch out their necks by pretending that their head was a giant crayon that they were drawing with making a circle on the ceiling. I love the chance to be creative with children. Children and adults benefit from creativity.

 The last core value I have chosen is learning. I chose this as one of my core values because I believe that learning can occur anywhere and at any time. One must simply be open. I know that I am learning new things every time I step into a classroom of children. I am constantly learning about myself, my strengths and weaknesses, and what I need to do to become a better me. It is interesting how we step into a classroom expecting to teach children, and step out knowing more from what we learned from them.