Chou Thao

*Critical Thinking*

*Students will demonstrate an understanding of and ability to apply scientific methods of thinking (including logic and empirical reasoning) about children, families, and their well-being. Students will differentiate between their personal and subjective theories about children’s development and scientific theories of development rooted in empirical research and based on best practices. In addition, students will demonstrate both currency in information technology appropriate to the discipline and an understanding of the ethical use of such technology.*

Your good friend has opened her own child care home and is providing care for several young children in addition to her own. You receive a call from her and she says

“I have a dilemma. One of the children that I care for full time, Lily, just took her first step! It was such an exciting moment!. I could tell it was going to happen so I ran and got the camera and recorded the whole thing! But then when I started thinking about sharing this with her parents, I began to have second thoughts. Her parents are so involved in her care, they ask so many questions, and mom, especially, has very mixed feelings about Lily being in child care and not being able to spend more time with her. Maybe they won’t be so excited that she took her first step at my house instead of when she was with them. Would it be dishonest if I didn’t share this information with them?

Response:

* What is your immediate first response? Reflect for a moment and explain why you feel this way.
* What is the rationale for being “honest” about what happened? What are the disadvantages?
* What is the rationale for being withholding the information about what happened? What are the disadvantages?
* Given your friend’s explanation of the parents, what do you think would be best for them? Why?
* What is your final suggestion and rationale?

I would be happy for my friend because she had just witnessed one of the children that she cares for take her first step. I would tell her that these are the moments that most childcare providers look forward to when they go to work. I would tell my friend that she has nothing to worry about and that she should tell the girl’s parent about what happened. She should just be honest about what happened.

 The caregiver should be honest about what happen because it is the right thing to do. She has not done anything wrong so she has nothing to worry about. She recorded Lily taking her first step, so she can show the parent what had happened. The parent will probably be happy that they get to see their daughter walk for the very first time, even if they were not able to be there to witness the event in person. There is a chance that the parent might get angry that they were not there to witness the event in person. They might get very upset and take Lily out of childcare.

 The reason for withholding the information about what happened is that the childcare provider does not want the parent to get upset. Lily’s parents are so involved in her care, they ask so many questions, and mom, especially, has very mixed feelings about Lily being in childcare and not being able to spend more time with her. This is why the childcare provider would not want the parent to find about the event. If the childcare provider didn’t share this information with the parent and the parent found out, the parent would be very upset. The parent would most likely take Lily out of childcare if they felt that the provider was not honest.

 The parent seems insecure about their daughter being in childcare. The mom wants to spend more time with Lily. These are normal feelings that parent often feel when they leave their children at a childcare program. Parents must realize that nobody can predict when children will reach their developmental milestones. Not all parents will be able to witness the first time their children walk, speak, or complete a milestone. Lily’s parents should not be too worried about their daughter reaching these developmental milestones when they are not there. They should be glad that their daughter is with a childcare provider who knows when their daughter will reach these developmental milestones so that the childcare provider can record what happened.

 The caregiver should be honest about what happened. She has not done anything wrong, so she has nothing to worry about. She recorded Lily taking her first step so that she can show the parent what had happened. The parents will probably be happy that they get to see their daughter walk for the very first time, even if they were not there to witness the event in person. It is better to be honest about what happened.

I have had similar situations in the past that helped me to generate this conclusion. I have worked in three different childcare settings in the past and I did get to see the children that I cared for reach their developmental milestones. There are situations in the past where parents were glad that I told them their child has reached his/her developmental milestones. I found out that as a childcare provider, I must be honest with my clients in order to build trust. Parents do not want bad things to happen to their children so the get very insecure about putting their children in other people’s hands. I have notice that parents tend to not trust small childcare programs where there are only one or two adults.

I have applied the information contained in my response in a real life situation. When I see a child that I care for reach his/her developmental milestones, I often tell the parent about what happened. The last time I told a parent that I saw their child take his first step; the parent was not upset that they were not there to witness the event. The parent thanks me for telling them what had happened and they were telling their son that they are proud of him. My experiences in the past working as a childcare provider helped me come up with my final advice. My experiences in the past have taught me how to deal with these situations when they do occur.