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 first reaction to the situation is that the daughter is missing out on important things, such as school because of her eye, yet her family has decided not to have it removed because they are waiting for a “miracle from god”. If god was going to “perform a miracle”, then why haven’t the child’s eyes healed yet? I would be wondering how important is their child’s health and social interactions to the parents? Because with her eyes being in the shape they are in she is missing school, therefore missing out on appropriate social interactions.

The first thing that I would say to the mom is, “I respect your religious beliefs, but your daughter is missing out on school and socializing because of her eyes. If you are adamant about not having the eyes removed, then what is going to be done so she can start attending school regularly?”

I would most likely have done some research before I went to the house about the pros and cons of the surgery incase the reason why the family was not attending appointments was because they had decided not to do the surgery. I would be thinking about the research I had done throughout the remainder of the meeting and then I would share that information with the family before I left and would tell them to think about both sides.

I believe that my supervisor would most likely respect their choice, but also try and show them other options. I believe that the doctor, because he/she doesn’t have a background in child development would most likely tell the family that their decision to not have the surgery based on a “miracle from god” is a bad decision. He/she would try and persuade the family to get the surgery by showing them research.

The most important consideration in this situation is the child. She needs to have her best interest at heart. I think that the family believes they are doing what is best for her, but in reality they aren’t. It is important to respect the parent’s cultural and religious beliefs, but I believe the welfare of the child is more important.

My final suggestion is that the child should have the surgery to remove her eyes because the doctors are saying that they have no function. Because of the discharge she is missing out on school. She will already have a more difficult time in school because of her visible disability so I think it is important for her to attend school on a regular basis in order to get the most out of it. Also it is important for her to be healthy and to be able to be around other people. She can’t form relationships with others when she is contagious.

I have not had the opportunity to be in a situation where cultural or religious beliefs caused a problem. I work at a church and all of the families there have the same religious beliefs, therefore we don’t have any ethical dilemmas.

The coursework that is related to this situation was work that I did in a Child Development course called Staff and Family Relationships . This class was about staff and families and we learned a lot about how to handle situations related to families with different cultural backgrounds. There is not one specific assignment that I learned this information from, most of the information I learned was through weekly readings.