 There are many core values that I find to be important in my daily life as well as in my professional interactions. I believe that everyone can have different core values and that’s what can make a team of co-workers work well with one another. If everyone bring something a little different to the table then more can be accomplished. The three core values that I feel play a major role in my life both personally and professionally are acceptance, collaboration, and the understanding or exploration of nature.

 The core value of acceptance plays a major role in working in an early childhood setting. I believe it is extremely important to be accepting of the children and families that come into your center. Early childhood professionals are faced with children from all walks of life. I believe that I am an accepting person and am interested to learn about other cultural and religious beliefs. I always try to be open in situation when meeting new families and ask questions about them in order to get to know them better. I believe I will be faced with the need to be accepting when I am the director of a center and meet prospective families from many different backgrounds.

 Collaboration is one of the core values that I think of when referring to an early childhood program. I believe it is so important for teachers and parents to collaborate in order to make the program run efficiently and effectively. An example of a time I have collaborated in a professional setting is with the family I nanny for. I write in a journal daily for the parents to read. I write about the children’s day and any challenging behaviors that may have come up, along with lots of positives. The parents and I then work collaboratively to make a plan for how to handle to behaviors. It is extremely important that we are on the same team and are consistent with the children. I also collaborate on a weekly basis with other childcare staff at Bidwell Presbyterian Church about curriculum and event planning.

 Nature is another core value that I find to be important. I believe children should be exposed to nature in their everyday lives. I think children are spending too much time indoors and not enough time outside exploring the amazing world around them. Children need to be exposed to nature so they gain love and respect for their planet. I try to get outside daily with the children I spend time with. There are so many things that you can do in nature with children. We go on leaf hunts, scavenger hunts, to the park, exploring at the creek, and on long walks looking at bugs and talking about plants.