*SLO V. 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?

My first response would be not to tell the parents because what they don’t know won’t hurt them. The mother is already having doubts on whether she wants Lily in child care and knowing she missed her first steps will probably upset her. She will see Lily walk eventually and then think it was her first time and be excited. I know I would be sad if I missed my child’s first steps and if the teacher saw them and told me I would be hurt but understand. If she didn’t say anything and I never knew, and when my child walks in front of me I will be excited thinking they were her first steps.

A rationale for being honest and telling the parents that Lily walked for the first time at child care would be the right thing to do because you are not lying to the parents and you did record her walking. Yes the mother might be sad, upset and disappointed and may even take Lily out of your care and those would be the disadvantages. But she will know when Lily first walked and be able to see it on a camera. She will also know you did not lie to her and you did the best you could to show her Lily’s first steps.

A rationale for not telling the parents would be that what they don’t know won’t hurt them. If they never find out and you do not tell them and they are able to see her walk at home and think those were her first steps. If you told the mother might take Lily out of your care to spend more time with her because she feels guilty missing her first steps. The disadvantages of not telling would be that you are lying to the parents and they might find out in the end and pull her out anyway because they can’t trust you. That might make them madder than if they just found out she already had her first steps.

Given my friend’s explanation of the parents I would not tell them. For them not to know would be best for them. They don’t seem to realize that they are going to miss little things when they child is in child care. Pulling the child out because of that doesn’t seem very rationale. Just letting the parents see Lily walk at home and think those were first steps would be fine. Just erase the video and not tell anyone that she had walked so there is no way for the parents finding out that she did.

For any other parent that is more rationale I think my final suggestion would be to tell the parents and show them the video. Most will be excited and try to get them to walk at home and would be thankful that you did record it. Most parents know they are going to miss things during the day but know that it is ok. They will be sad but able to accept it and appreciate you efforts.

I have not had any of these experiences in real life. The classrooms that I have worked in, I haven’t seen a child do something for the first time that their parents haven’t already seen them do. I have not applied my response in a real life situation and I wouldn’t be able to at this time because in the classrooms I have worked in it wouldn’t be my call. The course work that has helped me in making my response would be Child Development 392. This is a class where we were able to work in classrooms and have real life experiences.