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*Student Learning Objective 1:. Foundations of Child Development*

*Students will have an understanding of the theoretical, empirical, and philosophical foundations of the discipline. In addition, students will be able to apply their knowledge while working with children, families, and fellow professionals.*

 My first response to what I learned about foundation since the time I began my higher education experience is there is always going to be something to learn. By taking classes and going out in the field as interns or working, you will never learn everything. I also thought that I knew a lot before I started Child Development classes. I am glad to be proven wrong because I was happy to learn everything I have. Knowing that I will keep learning about children makes me excited to keep learning. Ways that I have grown in my understanding of this area is that I feel more comfortable around children and knowing that if I make a mistake it is not detrimental but I can learn from it. I also have grown in that I believe I know children’s wants and needs and I am able to understand and help them obtain them. This happened because I was able to be in classrooms and have the experience that helped me grow. Also because of the classes I have taken such as Child Development 392: Child Development Practicum. The experiences that I have had that helped me grow were working in different classrooms with different age groups and different settings. I have been able to work with so many different children, staff members, and families.

 Something that I want to do better in this area would be to be more creative. I like the ideas that I have seen in the classrooms but I am not good at coming up with ideas on my own. The one thing that I have learned the most about would be children learn and grow in everything that they do. Whether it’s running around outside, talking to their peers, or dumping everything they have in front of them on the floor. Something that challenges me the most is learning each and every child and to know them as individuals. I am seeing them as a class and maybe a couple of them that I have built relationships with as individuals, I am working on that.

 As a member of the Child Development profession, I can offer love and care for the children. I can offer someone who wants children to learn, grow and succeed to the best of their abilities. I know that any child can grow up to do anything and I want to be the person that helps them get there. Being a life-long learner I will continue to want to learn. I will continue to explore options and ideas. I will make sure that I am helping children to the best of my abilities and what I have achieved in this area is being able to connect with teachers and children quickly. I am able to have conversations and interact with them comfortably very quickly.

 Something that has hindered me is not wanting to make a mistake while being with a child. I want to also be a great role model for them. I feel that if I make a mistake in front of them that I have let them down and I am not being consistent which is something I strive to be. On the other hand if I admit that I made a mistake to them that is still being a good role model because it is showing them that it is ok to make a mistake. Something that I have appreciated are the teachers that work with me in the classroom. I have been able to have a great experience that each teacher has wanted me to succeed and improve in the classroom. They are always there for questions and anything that I need. Something that I would like to know more about is the differences between the ages. I know the obvious things that anyone can see but I would like to learn more about the skills and abilities.