Jordan Navratil

Reflective Portfolio 2

SLO II. Child Assessment and Study

Students will be able to understand, perform and appreciate multiple forms of child assessment. Students will be able to use qualitative and quantitative methods of assessing children. They will be able to use information to help identify a child's strengths and develop, implement, and evaluate plans of intervention to bolster areas of need.

In my child development career I have learned a number of ways to assess children. In Observation Techniques, we started observing through a one-way mirror. We then wrote about what we saw. This included physical characteristics and documenting who they interacted with, and if it was a positive, negative, or neutral interaction. I am currently enrolled in an assessment class online, and I have enjoyed reading articles about how children are assessed, and the factors that go into them achieving high.

The Desired Results for Developmental Profile (DRDP) is a tool used for assessing children as well. It highlights different stages of a domain and measure. For example, under the Domain titled Cognitive Development, the first measure is cause and effect. It then has four developmental levels titled exploring, developing, building and integrating. I have used the DRDP when assessing children in weekly curriculum planning meetings and when writing papers throughout my child development career.

In order to better understand assessment, I would like to observe an assessment of a child with developmental delays. I would like to be able to compare and contrast the development of a child who develops normally versus a child who is delayed in their development. It would be very interesting to assess the two.

I have learned the most about assessing preschool aged children in my child development coursework. This is my favorite age group among children in which I have interacted. I enjoy the fact that they are always growing and their minds are constantly curious and expanding. It’s so fascinating to see them grow and grasp certain things that they might have not been able to at one time. It makes my job as an educator very worthwhile.

Being a life-long learner, I don’t think I will ever get tired of learning about children’s minds. I have always found it to be extremely interesting to learn how their brains work. Assessing children gives me a better idea of how children learn certain areas of development and it is fascinating to be able to compare them in their different learning stages.

As stated earlier, the DRDP is an instrument I have used in numerous classes and in professional meetings. It is essential because it gives different developmental periods of the children’s learning. Another tool I have used to assess children was in a practicum class where I journaled my daily activities for my peers to see and review. Everyday after I completed my internship hours, I wrote a summary of the day. From the beginning of the semester to the end, I saw such an improvement in so many of the children. It was so interesting to see myself go from not knowing these children, to knowing their “ins and outs.” I hope I had meaningful interactions with all of the children that helped their growth.