Jordan Navratil

Reflective Prompt 5

**“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?**

I completely understand how the caregiver would feel torn and in a really awkward position. I think a child’s first step is really exciting and monumental. I know of a lot of parents that want to record it and have it on videotape to share with family members and friends as a memento.

 I would tell the mom what happened with Lily’s first steps. She might be upset that she missed it, but I know that is only because she cares about her so much and she wants to be there for her. I think the mom would appreciate the caregiver’s honesty and would want to see the tape. She would probably then encourage Lily to do it again. A disadvantage could be that Lily only wanted to try walking that one time, and the mom might feel guilty for not being there and that she doesn’t want to walk in front of her.

 I think it’s dishonest to withhold information of that magnitude, especially since the mom seems to be very involved with Lily. Since she always inquires about Lily’s progress and how she regrets not being there fulltime for Lily, I am sure she is going to be upset about the situation. Hopefully this will provide the mom and Lily’s caregiver with a stronger relationship since this is something the two shared together.

 I think that maybe the mom would feel better if she took a couple days off work to spend time with Lily. I know that it must be hard for her to know she missed her first couple of steps. They seem to be very involved in Lily’s endeavors and I think they would benefit by spending a lot of time with her individually.

 I would suggest that the caregiver tells Lily’s parents about her steps and doesn’t hide it from them. I think if she did not tell them, it would be dishonesty on her part. The caregiver cared enough to take a video and I think the parents would really appreciate that gesture. I think Lily’s first steps will be exciting for all of them in general, and it may be a bummer that it wasn’t at her own home, but at least it happened so she has something to look forward to.

 I haven’t dealt with anything like this in real life before, but I just thought that being honest was the best idea in this sort of situation. I would want to know as a mother if my child took her first steps. If I were the caregiver, I would explain everything I could about Lily’s first steps. I would tell her the circumstances, and then show her the video. Maybe the caregiver would try to mimic what she did for Lily to take those first steps and see if she would do it again in front of her parents. I have learned in my practicum class that parents love hearing about what their children do on a day-to-day basis. In this environment, I learned how to communicate effectively with both children and parents. I think this would be a foundation for my judgment in this situation.