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Student Learning Objective 2: 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.*

When I look back upon my experiences in the Child Development field, I realized when I started this journey I had zero knowledge about how to correctly observe and assess children. Over the last few years at Chico State my knowledge has greatly increased in the Student Learning Objective 2: Child Assessment and Study area. My growth within the area of assessment and study has been primarily facilitated by taking classes such as; Child Development 251: Observational Techniques, Child Development 282: Professional Seminar Child Development: Current Issues, and Child Development 392: Child Development Practicum.

In the beginning of child 251: Observational Techniques, I remember being very nervous about the observations we would be completely through out the semester. This was also the beginning of my Child Development career, so I was not fully aware of the importance of observations and the different techniques. I quickly became aware of the importance of these observations and became aware of how to utilize each of the different techniques. In child Development 282: Professional Seminar Child Development, I first became aware of using the Desired Results Developmental Profile. This is an important assessment tool to use when assessing preschool age children; this is usually done twice a year. Finally in Child Development 392: Child Development Practicum I was able to put my classroom experience into actual work experience. I regularly took observation notes which I compiled into two Desired Results Developmental Profiles.

In the area of Child Assessment and Study I would like to remember to take observation notes and make the notes more meaningful. I feel that sometimes I get so involved in interactions with the children that I would actually forget to take observation notes and then I hurry and take notes which may not be as meaningful as other would have been. The thing I have learned most about in the Student Learning Objective 2 is the importance of using observations when working with children. It is important to observe children because you learn their developmental abilities, their interest, how they problem solve, and also you can learn their individual personalities.

Of everything I have learned within this area, the thing that fascinates me if the most is how children can change within such a small amount of time. I feel that if children are observed in the beginning of the semester in a certain developmental area then again towards the end of the semester in the same developmental area; there is generally going to be growth within the area. Children learn and develop at such a rapid speed it is important to assess and document each phase. As a member of the Child Development profession, I can offer knowledge and education to family members of children who are looking for an assessment of their child.

Being a life long learner I will continue to learn and develop my assessment techniques within the Child Development field. I will continue to train within my profession and as assessment tools become revised or new ones are used within the field, I will update my techniques as well. The best of what I have achieved within this area is still developing. I am still continuing to learn and make progress each day that I work with children; I have learned to watch for certain signs when observing developmental progress of children. What has hindered me in the Student Learning Objective 2: Child Assessment and Study section in the past is that I felt like I could not write down all the observations. Children move at a rapid pace which makes it hard when trying to write down specific quotes or actions from them. I’m excited to continue to develop my skills and abilities within this Student Learning Objective as I continue my education within the field of Child Development.

Through out my time at Chico Sate I have developed assignments that demonstrate my knowledge of the Student Learning Objective 2: Child Assessment and Study. One of those assignments is the Desired Results Developmental Profiles from Child Development 392: Child Development Practicum. That assignment demonstrates my ability to observe and assess a child’s abilities within a wide range of developmental measures. Another assignment that demonstrates my knowledge and development within the subject is from the same class as the previous assignment; it is the behavior guidance assignment. The behavior guidance assignment demonstrates my ability to access challenging behavior and help repair those challenging behaviors or actions.