Katie Howard

SLO III. Programs for Children and Families

*Students will understand* ***features of model programs*** *for children and families as well as implement* ***developmentally appropriate curriculum*** *activities. Students will* ***evaluate the impact and efficacy*** *of these programs for children, families and communities.*

When reflecting back upon my career as a Child Development major, I realize I have grown a tremendous amount in my knowledge of programs and developmentally appropriate curriculum. I literally had never even thought about the importance of developmentally appropriate curriculum before taking Child Development courses. When thinking about the Student Learning Objective Three: Programs for Children and Families; two classes which I have taken so far in my Chico State career stick out in my mind. Those classes are Child Development 282: Professional Seminar in Child Development: Current Issues and Child Development 392: Child Development Practicum.

The class that has helped me learn the most about developmentally appropriate curriculum was Child Development 282: Professional Seminar in Child Development: Current Issues. This was also the first class that I spent time interning inside of a program with preschool aged children. Secondly in Child Development 392: Child Development Practicum I was able to put what I learned in Child Development 282 to actual use. I worked within the Associated Students Child Development Lab with preschool aged children and was able to put the developmentally appropriate curriculum information I learned within classrooms into practice.

I have immensely grown within the area of developmentally appropriate curriculum within classrooms. During Child Development 282, I developed and created an appropriate classroom activity for approximately 25 children to participate in. During Child Development 392 I was able to be involved in everyday curriculum activities; and implement my own curriculum in order to help explore an inquiry. An inquiry is simply a thought or question, which needs to be answered. Working eight hours a week within the Associated Student Child Development Lab greatly facilitated my growth in the area of Student Learning Objective Three: Programs for Children and Families.

 I continually wish to grow and develop within this area of Child Development. One thing I would like to improve is the ability to better evaluate the impact and efficacy of these Child Development programs for children, families and communities. The one thing I have learned the most about is how children learn and the effectiveness of developmentally appropriate curriculum for children of all ages. Of all things I have learned within this area, the thing that surprises me the most is the importance of creating a community within a classroom. It is really important that children feel safe and secure within a classroom and with the other children in the classroom.

 As a member of the Child Development profession, I can offer my knowledge and education of Child Development programs and developmentally appropriate practices. Being a life-long learner, I will continue to grow my knowledge of the Student Learning Objective Three: Programs for Children and families. I will continue to take classes and train which will facilitate my continued growth in the subject. The best of what I have achieved in this area is learning how to teach children and what is developmentally appropriate curriculum and practices for their age groups.

 There are several assignments I have completed which demonstrate my growth in this area. One of those assignments is a hypothetical child development program I developed for Child Development 456: Administration of Child Development Programs. It really helped benefit my learning of how programs work, develop and maintain programs. The second assignment that demonstrates my learning about programs for children and families is my budget from Child Development 456: Administration of Child Development Programs. This assignment benefited my learning and knowledge about programs for children and families because it taught me a whole new element of programs and how programs run from an administrative point of view.