

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.

You are in your first full time job out of college and are working for an organization that supports families whose children are at risk for developmental delays based on social and medical history. When you talk to the child development specialist you are shadowing during your first week, you ask him about the steps involved in identifying a child as delayed and eligible for services. He says, "There are some forms we need to fill out, but mainly, I just go by my gut instinct, and I'm usually right."

Response:

I would think that is not adequate to judge based on gut instinct. Every child is different and should be individually evaluated. He should not be working in this field if that is the way he assesses children. I have learned that there are many steps in assessing if services are needed and if so, what services should be provided for children. Based on their level of developmental need each service plan would be different.

I have learned about developing individual education programs for children with delays or disabilities, and it is a long in depth process. It is definitely not something you can just judge by opinion. I would ask him how it is possible for him to do that? Also I would tell him that I may not know the exact process for of de-

veloping service plans, but that I know there is many steps involved. I would ask him more about his reasoning, even though I know it is wrong. I would talk to someone above him at the work place. I would discuss with them what he had said, and how I believe that it is not right at all to evaluate and assess children based on a "gut instinct". I'm sure after informing them he would either get fired, or have to change his ways dramatically.

I have learned this information through child development courses such as 282, which was developmentally appropriate curriculum for children and a psychology course that focused on special education and children with disabilities. I learned about how individual education plans are developed for children. Also I discovered the qualifications needed for an individual education plan.