SLO II Child Assessment and Study Scenario

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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.”

**1. What would you think (not to be confused with what you would say)?**

If I was shadowing during my first week in my first full time job and I got a response like “There are some forms we need to fill out, but mainly, I just go with my gut instinct and I am usually right”, I would be really confused. I would not be sure what to say since I learned how important assessment is in school. I would think about talking to someone about this and want to learn what the steps really are for something like this.

**2. What have you learned during your time in higher education that would conflict with his approach?**

During my upper division classes I have learned how important assessment is. There are many different kinds of assessments for a reason and they need to be used to see how developmentally ready children are for different levels in school or how they are developing in general. Assessment is also completed to help teachers adapt their curriculum to meet the needs of the specific child, help teachers and families monitor children’s development, screen all children and recommend a follow up for a child with a possible disability and evaluate and improve program effectiveness.

**3. What would you say to him?**

I would explain to him how important assessment is to both the children and the parents. I would tell him that assessment can be as important as deciding if I child has a disability or as simple as if a child is ready to go to kindergarten. I would also tell him that assessment should always be used instead of assuming or using your own judgment.

**4. What would your next step be in this new job?**

My next step would be to find out more information about their thoughts about assessment. I think I would use what I know about assessment to do what I think is right for each child. I think that when dealing with children with disabilities its always important to choose to give the child an assessment.

**1. Where did you learn about the information contained in your response?**

I have learned most of the information contained in my response from my upper division classes. I have learned so much about assessment in all of my classes and I applied the information in my response. I also took some information on the different types of assessment from a website about NAEYC and assessment.

http://eyeonearlyeducation.org/2012/04/05/naeyc-offers-guidance-on-early-childhood-assessment/

**2. Have you applied the information contained in your response in a –real life situation? If so, please describe. If not, please describe a situation related to an ideal job in which this situation may come up and how you would respond.**

I have not used the information provided in my response in a real life situation. I have never been in a classroom or job setting where assessment has been an issue. If I were in my ideal job setting and I had a question about the steps to a certain assessment process and the answer that I was given was a vague answer about how they use their best judgment I would be concerned. I would answer by telling them all I know about assessment and how important the process is.