Development Context Scenario

**Taylor Hardoin**

You have a new job in a new town. It is an unfamiliar culture for you and you are a beginner with the language that most of the families speak, but you are confident knowing that your education prepared you well to work with children and families from a variety of social classes with differing belief systems.

You job is an early childhood interventionist at the state-funded Regional Center. One of the young children on your caseload has a visual disability. Your supervisor lets you know that the physician has determined that the child’s eyes are not functional and has spoken to the family about her recommendation to remove the child’s eyes and to replace them with prostheses in order to eliminate the constant discharge. This will allow her to attend school more regularly because she will be healthier and other children in the classroom will not be at a health risk. The family has missed several appointments with the doctor and they would like you to do a home visit to get a handle on what’s going on.

So, you go to the home. You are feeling positive; you have bonded with this child and feel like you have a good relationship with the family. During the home visit, you bring up the topic of the family missing appointments with the doctor and the doctor’s recommendations. The mom responds, “Oh, we’re not going to have an operation like that. Our whole church is praying for a miracle. How could God do a miracle and restore her eyesight if her eyes aren’t even there?”

1. **What is your immediate first response? Reflect for a moment and explain why you feel this way.**

My immediate first response is the family obviously does not want to go through with this procedure. I feel this way because the family is missing the appointments and also has another plan for their daughter.

1. **What is the first thing you think you would say to the Mom? Honestly**

The first thing I would say to the mother is to let her know that I am here to help her and her daughter. I would also say that in order for her daughter o have a normal life and to get the education and social skills she needs, she will have to attend school and have to be around other children.

1. **What will you say when you are ready to leave the home visit? By then you will have had a little time to think about the situation.**

By the time I get ready to leave this home visit and after I have thought about this situation more I would tell the mother that I would like to come back and visit again and talk about the situation some more. This way I could talk to the physician or supervisor about the situation.

1. **What do you imagine other professionals (your supervisor, the physician) might say?**

The other professionals working with this child might think that this sounds funny or unreasonable. They might not understand where the mother is coming from if they are not religious. They may also want to talk to this mother themselves or get angry that they are not cooperating.

1. **What do you think is the most important consideration in this situation?**

The most important thing to consider is how religious the family is. We as an outside party can not judge or force the family to do anything they do not want to do. We have to work with the family to make them understand the severity of the situation and to help them understand what the best option is for their daughter.

1. **What is your final suggestion and rationale?**

My final suggestion is to keep working with the family and not give up. They will come to realize what the right thing to do is after explaining to them what the problem is. Having this mother talk to another family that is going through the same thing might also help.

1. **What experiences have you had in real life that you considered in order to come to this conclusion?**

I have not had any real life situations that relate to this particular scenario, but I know families who are very religious. These families do have problems but come to realize the right answer to these problems in the end.

1. **Have you been involved in a situation where there is a strong clash of cultural values? If so, please describe.**

I have not been involved in a situation where there is a strong clash of cultural values.

1. **What coursework/University experiences have you had that would assist you in coming to a final piece of advice in this situation? Please provide the details.**

Being a part of my internships and being able to work at different preschools has assisted me in giving advice in this situation. I have learned that having respect for the families and respecting who they are and what their religion is , is the most important part about working with families and children.