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ECE 410

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NAEYC Standards 2, 3 & 5

The National Association for the Education of Young Children has Early Childhood Program Standards that are used to aid educators in providing the best educational experience for students. Teaching requires intentionality, whether you are working with students in general or special education. However, special education teachers will have to apply extra intentionality to facilitate the needs of the students they teach. Curriculum, teaching, and health are three of the standards that if maximized can be a great asset to special education teachers.

Curriculum planning is of utmost importance. Although an educator should be flexible, adaptable, and knowledgeable to identify when the curriculum is not reaching the student, the curriculum should always be planned. The program standard for “curriculum” is consistent with goals for the children and encourages learning and development in all five developmental domains (NAEYC, 2005, p.1). I believe that consistency is vital, the curriculum should help students to reach goals set for them. By targeting the five developmental domains, I believe that each student with a specific special need will be included and provided for. NAEYC writes, “When informed by teachers’ knowledge of individual children, a well-articulated curriculum guides teachers so they can provide children with experiences that foster growth across a broad range of developmental and content areas” (p.1). Students with special needs may need help with

developing one or more domains. The special education teacher must be a part of the curriculum planning because this will aid in the curriculum being geared toward providing the most appropriate learning experience for students. In the classroom where I work, I observe how intentional the teacher is when planning activities that are developmentally appropriate for each group of students. The entire class is learning the same topic, but it is organized to meet the needs of the students based on the level they are at.

The third NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standard is “Teaching”. NAEYC writes, “The program uses developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate and effective teaching approaches that enhance each child’s learning and development in the context of the program’s curriculum goals” (p.2). Although as an educator I may be eager for special needs students to reach the set goal that was made for them I must be careful and respectful with my approach. Students all belong to an ethnic group that must be respected although it may be different from my own, I must also be knowledgeable of the level that a student is at linguistically so that I can teach according, especially if the student has a speaking disorder. NAEYC writes, “In classrooms and groups that include teacher assistants or teacher aides and specialized teaching and support staff work, the expectation is that these teaching staff work as a team.” (p.2). There are three adults in the classroom where I work, we all work as a team, and we meet regularly to discuss teaching strategies and ideas that we can implement. We believe in structure and routine, which is why we try to be in unison so that students are not confused.

Health is also included as the fifth standard of the NAEYC Childhood program. Students do not always know what is best for them and depending on the special need a teacher may have to rearrange the classroom to accommodate a student and to prevent incidents or accidents. If a student uses a wheelchair the classroom should be spacious for the student to move around, and

materials should be accessible to the student. NAEYC writes, “The program promotes the nutrition and health of the children and protects children and staff from illness and injury” (p. 2).

In the classroom where I work, I try to be available to children and I try to create a safe place where know they will be heard, and their ideas and thoughts are valued and valid. I always call children aside when I speak to them about something that they did wrong. I am also verbal with my feelings, and I encourage students to express how they feel respectfully and appropriately.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children has Early Childhood Program Standards that are guidelines that will help educators to provide all students with what they need in a safe and developmentally appropriate way. The curriculum should always be influenced by an educator since they are more knowledgeable about the students that they teach. Teaching should be intentional and appropriate for a student based on their special needs. It is the job of the education to ensure that a student is healthy and safe while in their care.

Works Cited

NAEYC (2005). NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards. p.1-2.