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ECE 409-1700

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Teaching Belief Statement

Infants and toddlers learn through experience, exploring their surroundings and using their 5 senses. They also learn through social and emotional development. Infants and toddlers learn how to express their feelings, self-management, relationship skills, and decision-making. As they learn how to express themselves and make decisions, they are also being prepared for school readiness and can adapt to the school setting. I believe a teacher's role is to not only help the infants and toddlers navigate but to help them in their early years to understand they are unique and have their own talents and should be able to express themselves freely without any judgement and be secure of themselves as well. Infants and toddlers should be able to learn through their own experiences and the teachers should also motivate them to help them grow in their early educational years. Documenting their learning progress can help you as the teacher and the family to see how much they have learned and where they need help.

Maria Montessori's theories about children have influenced the way all early childhood programs are structured today and are still in structure in school environment. According to Montessori, you must know how to arrange the classroom into an interesting environment because it is also a part of teaching. She believed every child had the ability to learn and their parents must put in effort and help them learn as well. She knew the adults had to share interest to help the child learn. Like children, we also learn through provocations. In a Montessori classroom there is childlike furniture, real life materials, and nature related toys. Making materials accessible to the students by labeling the objects and placing pictures help the children

visually see where each object belongs limiting a messy setting. The role of the teacher is a facilitator. The children develop life skills in the five areas a Montessori classroom obtains, the language, sensorial, math, cultural studies and practical life areas. Children become more independent and do simple tasks on their own that they can do at home as well.

Early Head Start philosophy is each child can reach their full potential regardless of their family's income and struggles at home. In an Early Head Start setting, children are not judged based on their behavior on the contrary they enforce communication skills to help develop their social and emotional skills. Children can express themselves and build relationships that are critical for their adult life. The child's development is mainly influenced of their family, and it is also influenced in the classroom setting. In an Early Head Start classroom there is childlike furniture, objects are labeled, there is learning areas and it is developmentally appropriate. The classroom is bright colored, and it mimics a kindergarten, first grade classroom setting so they can be prepared and ready for school. The teacher's role is as a planner, they make educational plans and promote good health, nutrition.

I believe children learn best through play because they are able to express themselves and as the teacher, we will pick up the cues to help them. I believe children can visually see struggles that may be happening at home, and it can affect them. Learning how to express yourself at a young age is helpful because they will also adapt to it later in their life. Being able to express yourself in your classroom can also help the teacher observe any different behaviors.

Montessori and Early Head Start fits my philosophy because they want the children to become independent and they promote communication, social and emotional development. Having childlike furniture helps them navigate around the classroom and learn through their own experience also in the classroom the objects are labeled so it helps them know where to place the

objects back. Involving the family is important as well become as the teacher you communicate their strengths and weaknesses and come together to help the child.

Children are the foundation to help improve cycles of broken families and as teachers we can start with a change even if it starts in the classroom. Being able to validate their feelings and allowing them to express themselves makes them feel like they are being heard and it does not matter that they are just children. Some adults believe children do not understand what is happening in their surroundings, but they learn through observation and know when something is wrong. It affects them and if they are not able to express themselves their behavior changes in the classroom. It's important to validate a child's feeling and behavior. A meaningful teaching experience to me will be when the children in my classroom come back to visit me and be able to feel comfortable with me that they would like to discuss about their academic improvement. My third-grade teacher is someone I look up to in my educational field because I was in her first third-grade class and I visit her once in a while and she tells me how much she has improved as a teacher and when I told her about majoring in Early Childhood Education, she said she knew I was going to become a teacher because I was always involved in peer mediation and do tutoring when I was in 5th grade to her 3rd grade class.