

ETHICAL DILEMMAS IN TEACHING: INFANTS & TODDLERS

Pick 2 situations. How would you handle the situation? Which NAEYC Code of Ethics (2011) section, principle & ideal applies?.

1. Anthony is an infant in your classroom. Earlier in the week Anthony's mom told you she got a promotion at work. She was very happy and mentioned that she was going out Friday to celebrate. When she comes in Friday to pick up Anthony, she is in a very good mood. She is smiling and laughing. When you go to hand her Anthony, you notice she smells like alcohol. She isn't stumbling when she walks and she isn't slurring her words. He is the last child in your room for the day.
2. You have a new co-worker in your classroom. She appears to strap James, who is 12 months old, into the stroller on the way to the park. As she pushes the stroller a little way James slides out of the stroller to the floor. James cries but does not hit his head, or have any cuts, bruises, or red marks on him.
3. Aggressive behaviors have been increasing in your toddler classroom. Families are complaining and demanding something is done. One of the teachers on your team has started to use time-out. The two other teachers are not comfortable with this approach.
4. A family angrily demands you tell them the name of the child who bit their son.
5. Because of the new licensing rules, all of the staff who work with children in your program need to have a CDA credential or be enrolled in college classes to keep their jobs. Your colleague tells you that she was able to buy her CDA credential on-line without taking any of the classes or trainings.
6. The other teachers on your team are always having the infants do as many things as possible for themselves. For example, they have the babies clear their trash and put the plates and sippy cups in the little sink after meals. You do not think this is necessary.
7. A few of the parents of children in your class have asked you and the other teachers in your classroom if their children could bring a home toy to school. The parents feel that it will make the transition better for their children. The parents will label the toy and make it clear that it is a transitional object for their child. One of the teachers on the team is not comfortable with children bringing in home toys.
8. Zelda is a child in your class and Marcus is her father. Marcus comes in one morning with sunglasses on. As he puts Zelda down, she knocks the sunglasses off Marcus' face and you notice he has a black eye. You ask if everything is OK. Marcus tearfully shares with you that his wife has been physically abusive recently because of the financial stress the family has been facing.
9. You heard Jacob's family mention to the director during drop-off that his newborn sister was in the hospital with the flu. Jacob is starting to cough, sneeze, has a runny nose, and is lethargic. You take Jacob to the director and share you think Jacob may be getting the flu too. The director takes his temperature and he doesn't have a fever. She tells you she doesn't want to bother Jacob's family since Jacob's sister is in the hospital. She says not to mention this to the families of the other children and reminds you to wash her hands well.
10. The part-time teacher on your team often does things a little differently than the rest of the teaching team. She will whisper to the children or encourages them to be quiet or play quietly. She cleans up without speaking to the children or the other members of the team and does not add to the team meeting. When you ask her about how she is doing, she always smiles and says she is fine.

