

ETHICAL DILEMMAS IN TEACHING: PRESCHOOL & PRE-K

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

1. Andrea, the mother of a 4-year-old Zachary asks you not to let Zachary to nap in the afternoon. Andrea says the nap causes Zachary to stay up too late, and she can't get him up in the morning. Zachary usually sleeps soundly for one hour every day and seems to need the sleep to be able to enjoy class activities and get along with other children in the afternoon.
2. Shanise's parents are in the middle of a bitter divorce and custody battle. One of Shanise's father's (Daddy) has come to you to ask you to help him gain custody of Shanise. He wants to know if you have noticed anything when Shanise has been dropped off by her other father (Poppy); for example, if Poppy comes late to pick her up, if Shanise is disheveled when Poppy brings her, or anything else you may have noticed about Poppy's caregiving. You have noticed that Poppy has forgotten Shanise's lunch and soy milk many times (Shanise has food allergies). You also know that Poppy often bring Shanise late on the days that she is with him and that it's always hard for Shanise when she arrives to the program later than she is used to. Poppy has come late to pick Shanise up several times too. On the days that Poppy brings Shanise he often forgets to bring her spare change of clothes back, communication book, and other things.
3. You believe children learn through play and hands-on learning activities. This involves messy play. A new family enrolls in the program and says they do not want their son's clothes to get dirty.
4. Your co-worker is constantly late which means you are alone with all of the children until she arrives
5. You see your co-worker using a rope with handles to guide a group of students down the hall. When the students come to the stairwell, the first student starts to walk up the steps. The staff member tells the students to wait but the students didn't hear her. The staff member yanks the rope, causing the first student to fall from the step. The girl falls down landing with her arms outstretched in front of her, and starts to cry.
6. A group of families met to your director saying they want their children to be taught more academic skills. Based on that meeting your director decided that the 3- and 4-year-olds work on worksheets during center time each morning.
7. The NYC Dept of Health Bureau of Day Care regulations state there can be no more than 18 children in your classroom. Your new director is enrolling than more 18 families. Your roster has 21 children full-time students and the director is still recruiting more.
8. There has been a blizzard and the snow has prevented you from taking your class outside for over a week. The students are getting restless and you are struggling to keep them busy inside. Another teacher has offered to lend you a full-length animated Disney movie.
9. You are on the Hiring Committee at your program. A lead teacher position was recently posted. Yvonne and Carla both express their interest in the lead teacher position. Yvonne is a dedicated staff member who has worked in the program for 15 years but has little formal training. Yvonne is nice to children but doesn't really understand age-appropriate curriculum. Carla has a degree in early childhood education but has worked at the center for less than two years. Carla relates well to the children. She is good at planning age-appropriate, engaging curriculum.
10. Alia cannot eat pork because of her family's religious beliefs. Her friend Jose offered to share his ham sandwich with her. While you were helping another child, Jose gave Alia some of his sandwich and she ate it.

