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ECE 209- Seminar

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Teaching Beliefs

I am a citizen of the United States that was on December 20, 1991 in New York. Since the day I was born I have been living in Manhattan and in the same apartment I currently reside in now. I have three other siblings which are 2 sisters and one brother. Before my parents had all of us they were living in the Dominican Republic. My parents were born and partially raised in the Dominican Republic, they traveled with a visa to make a better living here. My father received his visa over my grandfather and he married my mother in the Dominican Republic while he was working to bring my mother to the United States. My parents had their first child a year after becoming citizens of the United States. They had my brother and then from there all three of us were born. I attended Elementary School in my zone and graduated 6th from there. When I did start school and I was in grade school, it was when I realized I wanted to be a teacher. The teacher I had in 2nd grade was absent one day so they split up the students into different classes. I was assigned to a pre-k class and it was when I realized how much of a desire I grew to work with kids. When I graduated from Elementary School, I attended High School about 0.8 miles away from my neighborhood. While attending High School there I was volunteering at a daycare that my sister worked in. I was working with age group 8 months-2 years of age. Something that also happened while I was in High School was the pregnancy of my now 9 year old son. Although it was a hard decision for me at such a young age to keep and maintain a baby, I knew I wanted this because I love babies. My desire for becoming a teacher got even stronger once I had my son. Watching a baby develop and the stages they go through

was amazing to my eyes. I had to put aside my wishes of studying to become a teacher because going to school wasn't the right choice at the moment when I had a little mouth to feed. In 2016 I started working in a hospital that brought me a good income to support my son and I. A few years into the job I got really depressed and started giving thought of my career. Although I am making decent income, the income was no longer matching my interest in the position I work for. I decided to enroll in college and made my decision to start my career in teaching. It became easier for me to go back to school being my son was much older and has become independent to attend to his own needs. I am proud of how far I've come and the state I am in now I believe all things are possible and it happens at the right timing. My dream of becoming an Early Childhood Education teacher is on the works. Soon I will be able to work with kids and continue to enjoy the stages and growth they go through. It is why it is my passion to work with kids because although they are so little and unable to verbally communicate, they find other ways on how to communicate whether it is using body language or sounds.

I believe development in children happens through the help of adults. While both theorist Piaget and Vygotsky argue the difference through the domains children meet in development I lean more against Piaget. Piaget has a theory that children develop through experience that families or caregivers provide for children in order to learn. Vygotsky believed children are self taught and they learn through their environment and culture they are raised in where they would eventually pick up and follow. Curriculum and activities put together by families and educators help shape the understanding of how things work around babies. Let's take for example looking at the development in children cognitively. In a classroom environment teachers are to use materials that help with this domain where children show results of brain development. When children are provided with materials to play with and learn from, it makes them curious to learn

the object where they observe and detain information. Babies are really good at attaining information in their brain but in order for this domain to develop adults must engage with children, share feelings and give babies the entire attention they need. Building relationships is very important when working with babies. Educators must learn to respect a baby's timing. For instance when feeding babies and they aren't ready to eat, we must keep in mind that forcing food is not the best route to take. This is where the reciprocity domain matters. Trusting is important when working with babies. They learn to trust when you communicate with them and help them adapt to transitions. The reciprocity domain is the perfect example using respect in a classroom with kids. A mutual exchange must be followed to consider a baby's feelings. Another example is changing their pampers. Some babies can become difficult when it comes to this part yet we must consider communicating with the children and alerting them first what is going to happen, the steps you will take to change the babies pampers and just overall informing them that is just a damper change and that you will be putting them back down in no second. These domains are developed when followed and used correctly. Often babies come from a home where their culture is much different than the environment in the classroom. When open minded to each child's culture and using some of those practices in our classroom's it makes it much better for babies to adapt faster in the classroom. An example is of children who come from a home where a different language is being spoken. Having a bilingual educator in the classroom is very important because it would help support babies that come from a different home where a different language is spoken. Also trying to get parents to engage in the babies classroom helps in these domains. All of these ways are how we create an attached relationship with babies.

My goals are to perform these domains in the environment during my placement where I am able to see the development stages babies have succeeded in. I want to be able to feel the power of knowing how appreciated families feel from the development their babies have achieved due to the curriculum that is used in my classroom when I am in the position of a professional field. I looked forward to seeing the happy faces in families and the changes babies have made throughout the time in my daycare such as those domains in cognitive, movement, social emotional and language. It is some of the strength I would bring to my fieldwork. Working together with families and babies that help with child development and meet the baby needs. Although working with babies is my desire and the excitement in me fills up, I know working with families can be sometimes very difficult.. This semester I studied scenarios that can possibly happen while working with babies and families. Some of them are running late, constantly forgetting extra clothes and diapers and some even want routines of how things are at home to remain the same when they are in daycare. This is when I can say that my fieldwork can get a little challenging. As teachers we must keep in maintain respect because it is how we build trust in families that leave us with their babies throughout the day. I believe the best way to inform parents with this is during orientation and making clear what are requirements that need to be met in order for their baby to maintain a spot in the daycare. When they are aware of the changes that can affect their child from how things are different at home, they start to change things up a little more to try and have their baby adapt to new ways. The communication between families and teachers must remain. Although these times can be a bit difficult for teachers, I looked forward to these changes because it is what will help me learn from those situations. Going through that experience can help me to adapt to those issues and better face them and become an expert in solving those problems when working with families.

After obtaining my degree at BMCC is to enroll for my bachelors and continue to grow in the Teachers Education Department and receive my full training in child development. Aside from that I also plan on finding a part time teacher assistant job that can help within 5 years where I can get experience for when I start looking for a professional career as a lead teacher position in a Early Childhood Daycare. My biggest dream has always been to open up my own daycare and I am hoping that within 10 years I would be financially set to do so. I have the ambition of working with babies from the ages of infant to 2 years of age. In order for me to reach these goals I would need to obtain all my training that would allow me to get my license to open up my own daycare. If I am looking into owning a daycare I would probably have to look into realtors too in order to own a business therefore I would need some experience in business too. I am anxious about making my dream come true and I know they would as long as I keep my patience and continue pushing myself to the next level.