

Jennifer Luna

Professor Fisher

ECE 110-192

May 08, 2019

Commentary Paper

A child's preschool years are the most crucial in years of their lives. During this time, children are like sponges absorbing all the information being thrown their way. My love for teaching and helping others made it overwhelming easy to decide which career to pursue. My desire to educate young children made me decide to specialize in teaching preschool to young school age children.

Cognitive Development

- Child C was able to recognize and match the colors in both languages. This shows Child C's ability to differentiate colors, matching skills and early identification skills.
- Child C was able to describe what he was drawing, and he stated, "circles". The ability to distinguish shapes demonstrates his recognition skills, classification skills and his organization skills
- Child C was able to picture read by imitating the way his caregiver's read to the class. This demonstrates his observation, recall, play and ability to participate in a group.
- Child C placed the book in a teacher's position so his peer could see the pages. This demonstrates early emergent reading, role play skills and his ability to read from left to right.

Language Development

- When his caregivers asked him questions, Child C was able to communicate his needs and wants. This demonstrates his comprehension, verbal, social and listening skills. (Receptive)
- Child C's speaks clearly with the people around him, although he made small errors. This demonstrates his improving communication and social skills. (Receptive)
- Child C was able to picture read to his peer. This demonstrates his ability to think visually, promotes early reading skills and helps develop his imagination and creativity. (Expressive)

Social-Emotional Development

- Child C was able to spend time and interact with his peers. This shows that he has gained social skills, sharing skills and allows him to learn ways to express his emotions.
- While picture reading to his classmate, Child C demonstrated his ability to actively participate with his peers. This demonstrates Child C's imitation skills, pretend play skills and observation skills.
- Playing with his peers promotes Child C's comradery skills, helps him develop a warm personality and helps him develop trust in those around him.

Motor Skills Development

- Child C was able to walk around the room without needing help from his caregivers. This demonstrates his balance, coordination, motion and development of his gross motor skills.
- While reading to his peer, Child C was able to turn the pages in The Cat in the Hat. This shows his ability to manipulate objects with ease, his hand and finger movement skills.
- Child C demonstrated his ability to paint shapes by making the swirly circles. Being able to draw shapes demonstrates his finger and hand motion skills, his ability to hold a brush

correctly by making brush strokes, his hand-eye coordination and a development of his fine motor skills.

Sensory Processing

- Child C used his sense of touch to hold the brush when he was painting circles on paper. This demonstrates an improvement in his fine motor developmental, strengthens finger and hand muscles.
- Child C used his sense of touch to turn the pages in The Cat in the Hat. This demonstrates his hand-eye coordination, his ability to his fingers and his ability to manipulate a book.
- Child C walked over to the art area and picked up a sheet of paper and crayons. This demonstrates his ability to use his hand to grasp objects and his eye-foot coordination as he walked without assistance.

Child's Development vs. Culture

There are many ways that culture can influence a child's development. During my observation of Child C, I noticed that language played a big part in his upbringing. Child C comes from a bilingual household and is encouraged to practice both languages. Being bilingual will open many opportunities for him in the future. Being able to speak both English and Spanish helps Child C communicate with his peers and caregivers; having caregivers that are also bilingual helps Child C practice his language outside of his home. Being able to receive an education impacts a child's development. Through his education, Child C can further his motor skills and it will help him gain knowledge to help him achieve his goals. If you want to learn, it is never too late in life to get an education. Economy and environment can have a negative or a positive impact on a child's development. At times if you come from a rough neighborhood with low income, this may cause children to fall into the bad stigma of a life of crime. On the other hand, there are children that grow up in those same neighborhoods, but they use it as a guide to become something better and

break the mold. Culture always plays a major factor in a child's development. With Child C, his parent's Hispanic heritage has impacted the way he speaks and communicates with others. Being bilingual has given him the chance to socialize and encounter more people. Art plays a big part of Child C's development as it helps him express himself. Having art in his life allows Child C to explore his creativity and he can use it as an outlet to explore his inner thoughts and emotions.

My Development vs Culture

Thinking back to when I was a child, there were many factors that contributed to my development. The most important aspects that impacted my developments as a child was my cultural background. Being that both my parents are Hispanic, being bilingual was a given. As I got older, being capable to speak English and Spanish has helped me obtain different job opportunities. Now that I am a mother myself, it's extremely important to me that I teach my son to both languages. Being that he is biracial, and his father only speaks English, I want my son to learn that speaking both languages will help him stay in touch with his Black and his Hispanic side. Living in such a diverse environment such as New York, has helped me learn that everyone is unique and not one person you encounter is the same. Growing up in a diverse environment helped me develop social skills as a child.

Living in a city that is known for being the city that makes dreams happen, has provided my siblings and I with opportunities that our parents weren't presented with. Being that my parents didn't receive a college degree, growing up receiving an education was imprinted in my brain from a young age. When I was a child attending school was an obligation and something that I didn't have a choice in the matter. Now that I am older, I want to get a higher education and I don't see it as a burden. The hard-working skills that my parents engraved in me as child, is what is now helping me along in my pursuit to get my degree and become successful. Food played a big part

in my development as a child. The food that helped me grow and gave me the nutrition I needed to grow. Growing up around Dominican food made me love my culture and where I'm from. As a child, my Catholic religion played a large part in my development as it was passed on from my parents. As a child I didn't understand why I needed to attend school and go to church. Now that I am older, I can see that it taught me discipline and it gave me a better understanding of how being a part of a religion makes you a part of a community.

Preschool vs. Young School Age

Apart from observing Child C, I observed Child M in an elementary school. Child C was a bit over three years old and Child M was five years old. Since both children were close in age, they shared some similarities in their development. Both Child C and Child M can identify different colors and distinguish shapes. Both children have developed comprehension skills and can answer questions when asked. The children also have differences in their development. Being that Child M is about 2 years older than Child C, she has a wider vocabulary. Child M can focus on one activity longer than Child C who had a shorter attention span. When it comes to their physical appearance, Child M is slightly taller than Child C. Since Child M is older, she can use her coordination to walk around the room and pass out materials to each table. Both children are exposed to adequate educational resources.

Setting Comparison

The settings in which I observed both children were completely different locations. With Child C, I visited a home daycare and with Child M I went to a kindergarten class in an elementary school. Both locations made it possible to see that educating the children was the most important thing to their teachers. The children in both locations were provided with areas such as a library,

an arts and craft section in which they could explore their creativity and broaden their reading skills. The biggest difference was the number of students in each class. In Child C's class there was only 8 children and in Child M's class there were 16 students. From my observations, the children in both scenarios were under the care of nurturing caregivers. This has a huge development as the caregiver's warm demeanor ensures the children receive all the attention they need. When working with children, it's important for the adults to make sure each child is taken care of. Personally, I think if the caregivers are doing everything in their power to make sure the children are learning, the setting in which they are being educated doesn't matter.

Being able to sit and observe children of different ages confirmed that I want to be an educator. By being a teacher, I would be able to help shape and educate our future leaders. From observing the caregivers, I learned that it's extremely important to have a warm personality. Showing the children, you are caring, and approachable helps build trust between the teachers and students. One of the few things that stuck with me is that as a teacher you need to ensure that you provide the children with different resources such as books, art, and dramatic play to help them gain all the important skills they need to help with their development. There's nothing else in this world that I want to do other than helping teach children. Hopefully I can become that one teacher that proves to a child that there are still educators that care about their well-being and education; if I can see their potential, they should be able to as well.

