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December 17, 2020

ECE 110-093L

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Commentary Observation Paper

Infant & toddler observation was given the opportunity to observe a female toddler in a rather unique setting. Andrea is a one-year-old white female. She has pale skin, brown eyes shaped like almonds, and thin lips. Her hair is blonde, short, and straight. She's at a normal one-year-old height and weight. She has on a short sleeved sky blue shirt with a picture of a strawberry in the middle. She has on dark blue jeans with sneakers that are white. I decided to choose Andrea for my observation because she was most interactive, very interesting and unique to observe. Also learning more about the connection she has with the teacher. She loves the attention from the childcare educator more than others and shows her skills of being interactive with the toys.

During my observation of Andrea, I noticed she watches what the teacher is doing when kissing the puppy. This demonstrates observation skills, communication skills, ability to imitate. Andrea is a visual learner imitating every move the teacher tells her to follow. The teacher pointed out that the bottle belongs to the babies in spanish and walked over to grab one. Demonstrating cognitive skills and understanding in a different language. Andrea takes the binoculars and camera in learning to use them, but needing the teacher to demonstrate. Putting it on her mouth and then imitating when seen through the eyes. With the camera she clicks and releases to take a picture. Revealing sensory processing, gross motor skills, fine motor skills, and observing. The milestone Andrea mastered was imitating an adult to be able to do things on her own and be independent.

Andrea demonstrates several language skills. When she put the stuffed dog in her mouth and whimpered a little when the teacher wanted to remove it from her mouth demonstrating expressive language. As a sign of being sorry for biting the stuffed dog's nose she kissed it as well. When the teacher responds to her tugging the little boy saying "oh no, what happened? say please Andrea" and she followed command and didn't do it again demonstrated receptive language. Andrea kept passing the toys and not keeping her eyes off the teacher to follow her voice. Through these actions, she demonstrated communication with body language, movement and eye contact. The language milestone Andrea mastered was being understood by her care provider and communicating.

She demonstrates rule following, communicating and behavior when interacting with other children and the care provider. The social milestone she mastered is the ability to recognize and understand the feelings of others and herself. When Andrea is bringing over two baby dolls for the teacher and other children. She demonstrates experiencing feeling, sharing, and consideration. The milestone she mastered is managing emotions and caring for others and not just herself.

Throughout my observation Andrea demonstrated several gross motor skills such as bending, walking, and standing up. Andrea bending over to pick up the toys and using her five fingers to grasp the object demonstrated reaching for objects, grasping objects, and being independent. The milestone she mastered was using both her hands to grasp an object for fine motor skills.

When she picked up the toys from the floor she demonstrated vision, sensory touching, and focus. Andrea only needs instructions but does things on her own while the teacher watches over her. She's learning on how to be independent by being dependent on the care provider first. The milestone she demonstrated was walking over to the table by herself to get a baby doll to feed it's bottle.

Kendra Cherry established how children change and grow over the course of childhood. Center of various aspects of development with social, emotional, and cognitive growth. It depending on the sights and surroundings they are around impacting them. From my observation, Andrea is at the sensorimotor stage when she limits her interactions with one person she trusts like the care provider.” A period of time during which an infant's knowledge of the world is limited to his or her sensory perceptions and motor activities.” Louisa Fitzgerald is one of the theorists often involved with toddler development. Louisa believed a toddler would favor one type of development over the other and focus more on that certain factor of development. She believed that there are many ways to encourage development in toddlers with the environment, play and interaction, and nutrition. Andrea was encouraged with interaction with the provider by playing pretend with the stuffed animals.

The major elements of culture are symbolic play when Andrea picks up the baby of her skin tone and the other boy does the same. It reveals love for your own skin tone and what they know already. Also the teacher is teaching the children the spanish language and their understanding develops. Clothing heritage is a big part of a child's life, being American she is dressed in a t-shirt with a girly butterfly design and jeans. From what I can see she's different from the others surrounding her in being dependent on an adult vs. the other kids who are independently playing. Andrea has observing and listening skills developing fast at her age. The aspect of culture impacts Andrea with her development by showing her what life really is, so she's only learning what's taught. Andrea is caucasian, or can possibly be mixed, but she's in a spanish daycare from what I can see which means her parents want her to learn a new language and explore spanish heritage. When the teacher speaks to her in spanish language she seems to always understand and listen to directions. This will impact her language development, cognitive development, and social- emotional development.

Some factors that impacted my development were age, language, education and family situations. I was born in generation Z so that means things are completely different and I act,

dress, and think differently. My parents are strict and they talk to me about how they didn't complete high school or college but push me to graduate. Education is completely different for me because we have all the technology in the world that my parents never had. My mother is from El Salvador and my father is from Puerto Rico and Trinidad. Their first language is Spanish, so as a child I was spoken to in English at school and Spanish at home. But today's society changed my views as a symbol on independence. With racism still alive being constantly judged in this generation and like others from way long ago. My eyes opened since my culture and ethics are not considered "proper" in the United states. Behavior is based on living in today's world where everyone is completely different from the past. It goes for the clothing I wear everyday and how I live.

Isabella is an infant Caucasian female around 10-12 months old . The language is very different from Andrea being she's a little older and can speak a bit more. In addition to rapid physical growth, young children also exhibit significant development of their cognitive abilities, particularly in language acquisition and in the ability to think and reason. They both are very observant and apply it to the objects they use which determines life skills. They differ by level of interaction with the teacher when it comes to playing with toys. Andrea processes things faster than Isabella, because of age difference and sensory processing skills were developed first. Isabella is both independent/ dependent at various times and stands up on her own as an infant. Isabella is in her own kind of world and Andrea is more focused on playing with the care provider. They are different ages, so behavior, social/emotional, communication won't be the same. Andrea doesn't cling to one object, but does the opposite and moves on to other toys. Andrea didn't interact with other children and only the teacher who gave her the attention when wanted. Other children were more affectionate with the toys and crying out for attention. But she was non-verbal and only wanted attention when playing with the toys. A connection is built between the teacher, Isabella , and Andrea when playing. They are still developing with speaking and use the toys to interact. The setting it took place in was at a child's daycare in one

part of the room which was the play area. There were toys, babies, stuffed animals, and on hand objects. There were three children in the room (infant & toddlers) who felt in a safe and comfortable environment. The other part of the room has a sitting area for reading and playing. Only two kids were playing with the camera and binoculars in that area who so happened to be Isabella and Andrea. It has impacted their behavior in a positive manner meaning they feel safe, secured, and contented. In a preschool setting they are more comprehensible, focused, and active listening. There are similarities and differences between infants/ toddlers and preschools when doing observations. It didn't show much of their daily life routines in this observation, but on how their lives were in the classroom.

My experience as an observer is not just about teaching children, it's about exploration, learning, and observing play. I enjoyed it because I feel I am more educated in this part of child learning. Educating me more about each and every child I observe and learning. I used what I learned to observe emotional and mental development. I learned infant/toddlers need much more care and patience when helping them with developing skills. Every child is unique in their own kind of way and it changes my perspective on how to handle each one. At the end of the day they need us to create a safe environment and help develop their minds for the greater. What struck me most from this experience and the children is how interactive and observing they are themselves. Also what's new to me is that culture, environment, socioeconomic status, and genetic factors can influence when an infant or toddler will begin to crawl, walk, or talk. What interested me most was that infants and toddlers learn about what's important by paying attention to the eye gaze of adults and imitating them. Observation is the key to planning and understanding the strengths and needs of every child. I gain a sense of their knowledge, interests, needs, skills, and how they learn best. Observing helps engage a child with you, other children, and the learning environment. I was fascinated about was when the children picked out baby dolls that most resembled them and were affectionate as if they were thinking "this is me"! Their knowledge grows everyday and they all learn differently from visual, listening, and hands

on. I'm at a learning stage, so this is interesting to me on being able to understand children before helping them. The staff shows how to speak and handle children with care and patience while giving the same amount of attention to each one. Building a relationship with each child is the most important factor to gain trust from them and to be able to have them hear you out in situations. Learning is a long process to the future and it starts with this first infant and toddler stage. You can always take that knowledge and put it into something else because you learn every characteristic and skills needed in life. That's the strongest quality in early childhood education to move on to higher professions. What was quite interesting is how quickly children develop in their early stages of childhood.