

Mellisa Berrios

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ECE 209

Teaching Belief Paper

My Name is Mellisa Berrios, I am 18 years old. I'm interested in working with infant-toddlers and families because for me it's an important job where I can help children and be there for the kids that need support. I've known since I was a child that I wanted to work with children, I would help around at church with the babies and I would also help around my family members that had children. Some skills that I have gained from taking this ECE 209 course are patience, communication, creativity and collaboration. Patience is needed when working with children because working with children you need to work slowly for them to be able to understand and many kids in one classroom learn and understand at a different pace than others. Communication is also very important because communication can create bonds with the infant and the family's infant, which is really important and needed. Creativity is also another skill that I have. I enjoy doing fun activities and doing hands-on activities, which can become very beneficial for working in a classroom with infants. The last skill that I have is collaboration, I can work with other people easily and be able to accept their point of view on things. After graduating from BMCC I'm going to continue studying at another school, so I can get my bachelors degree. My dream job is working at an elementary school. I'm currently working at an after school program in an elementary school, so I will be able to get the experience.

Communication is important to me when working with babies and families because it plays a role that starts trust, builds strong relationships, and ensures that the infant is in great hands and that the infant would have a great development process. Being able to communicate with the infants' families allows opportunities to collaborate with families to understand their needs, preferences, and goals for their child. When communicating with the infant's parents, it's also important to share important information like updating families with updates on their child's progress and any concerns that the parents may have. Communication also allows me to gather valuable information from families point of view of their child's temperament, routine, and cultural background. Communication helps me share strategies, resources, and ideas with families to support their child's learning and development at home. I can also receive ideas from other teachers. Communication also builds strong relationships with families with trust, respect, and understanding. Communication is important to me because it allows me to create meaningful connections with families, create a supportive learning environment. In my infant classroom, when working with infants and families I will focus on collaborating with families, I will have families be involved in their child's learning journey by regularly communicating with them. Promoting active play will also be put into focus in my classroom because Infants learn best by hands on exploration, This would help infants improve their cognitive, physical, and social emotional development. Maintaining communication in my classroom will be the main focus because I or any parent will be able to set boundaries on certain activities for their child and be able to understand each other's point of view. By focusing on these practices I hope to create a safe environment for both families and infants.

Three concepts that I have learned in ECE 209 are that communication is important, respecting the infant, respecting the boundaries and the third concept that I learned is being open minded. Respecting the infant is one of the most important things a caregiver should do in the article Baker & Manfredi/ Pettit (2004) states “Loving, trusting relationships with caring adults result in secure attachments; children know they can count on their adults to be attuned to their feelings and to respond quickly and constructively.” If a caregiver is able to respect an infant and be able to listen to the infant's wants and needs, it can create a special bond between the caregiver and the infant, which can become attachment later on. Respecting boundaries is another concept that I have learned that is very important when you work with children and families because families may have different expectations than what a infant teacher may have for the child, but it's very important to take note of the parents wants than our own wants for the child, because respecting boundaries creates a great environment for a child because a child is always aware if the parents communicate with the caregiver or not, for example in the article Building Partnerships Between Families and Early Childhood Staff (2012) states “Children can trust and feel safe with staff who are respected and supported by their family and who respect and support their family in return.” It's very important to get along or just respect the parent's boundaries. Being open minded is also very important because everyone comes from different cultures and backgrounds, each kid will be affected because of the culture differences. In the article Gonzalez-Mena & Bhavnagri (2000) it states “Caregivers should be sensitive to differing practices and yet still be professionals and share their expertise.” Although the infant or family may come from a different background, they still need to be treated with respect and try to understand their culture, but to do so the caregiver has to be open minded about situations. My

beliefs are a bit different from what I have learned at school because I believe that an infant teacher should truly try their best to communicate with the parents and create an environment where a child wouldn't feel left out or in a negative way because of the parents not being involved.

While taking this course I learned reasons why different practices are very important to infant teachers, but for me communication will always be more important. Communication holds a lot of power to understanding. Communication isn't something one can avoid. It's important to communicate with parents, discuss about the child's progress and address any concerns, i hope to improve my skills of understanding more of these practices.

Reference

Baker, A. C., & Manfredi/ Pettit, L. (2004). Relationships, the Heart of Quality Care.

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Gonzalez-Mena, J., & Bhavnagri, N. P. (2000). Diversity and Infant/Toddler Caregiving.

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