

Patricia Monge

Professor Longley

ECE 209-S

12.13.2020

Teaching Beliefs Paper

My name is Patricia Monge and I am currently working as an assistant teacher at a Headstart Program with 4 year olds in the Bronx. I graduated high school back in June 2012 and started my college journey at Medgar Evers in Brooklyn 2 months after in August 2012. In one of my ECE classes I needed to do field work and did not have any idea how would I get the field work done. I found this elementary school where I completed my fieldwork. While completing my field work I asked the director of the after school if I can volunteer and she agreed. Later, I was given the opportunity to become a full time employee and I started working as a group leader with 3rd graders. I liked 3rd grade but I did not feel a connection like how I felt when I moved with the little ones in kindergarten and 1st grade. After working with the little ones I knew that my calling was education and the little ones. I worked as a group leader for 4 years and unfortunately had to leave and find something better for me. I found a Headstart program in Harlem and started working as an assistant with the 3 year olds and later the mix age group. I worked for 3 years and had to leave because I did not like how the program was unorganized, the director was never to be seen, teachers going above and beyond and no appreciation. After enrolling into BMCC to finish my associates degree I thought to myself that maybe I would be perfect with working with infants and toddlers. I believe that when working with Infants/Toddlers you are making a bigger difference then when the child is 3 or 4 years old you are getting to leave a bigger imprint and bond with that child for much longer. That's what I wanted, I want to leave an imprint on the

babies and make sure I can share those wonderful moments of walking, eating , their first words, really seeing them grow and being part of it.

I believe that teachers of any grade are the children's companion, mother, father, a person who can be trusted. Teachers need to have love in their hearts, being a teacher takes a lot of discipline, strengthen, understanding and learning. If you are an infant teacher you need to have compassion and unconditional love. This semester we learned the 3 R's: Responsiveness, Reciprocity, Respect and attachment. An infant child is a tender, new ,innocent child who is learning about the world. The family is bringing their precious treasure to us because they have to work or they are a single parent and need a "break" whatever the case is we are going to be handling the baby. The parent and the child have already made an attachment. According to Baker & Manfredi/Pettit (2004) " Attachment is a strong emotional bond that grows between a child and an adult who is part of the child's everyday life" (p.3) These attachment will only be formed when us as infant teachers are respecting the baby. We show respect by communicating with the baby and letting the baby know what you are going to do. Everybody deserves respect and for an infant by showing respect a baby is learning to feel safe and secure. In the article by Cheshire (2007) it states " A suitable, warm response from the caregiver assures children the world is good and that people can be trusted" (p.2) when a teacher is getting to know the child and learning their cues of when it is time to feed, change, sleep, and play and we attend to them with love the child will start to be more calm/relaxed because they know they are in good hands. Our classroom needs to provide a family-like environment. This is done by looking at parents as a partnership. The families of the infant are shaping the baby because that is where the baby is spending their time and exploring the world around them. We as infant teachers need to make

sure that we are getting to know the parents and actively listen to what the families are communicating about their child. We need to listen between the lines and listen for concerns, doubts and fears that the families are having. For many parents this might be their first time after the baby is born leaving them in someone else's care. Parents are having all their emotions in one. We provide an environment that is inviting, a place where is open-minded and where the teachers are there to support you, parents tend to relax and open themselves more to the teachers and follow the classroom rhythm. Infant teachers will get a greater understanding of the family and the child by conducting home-visits. Home-visits are a time where teachers and parents meet in the family's home and is a opportunity for the teachers to see how is the home life and speak to the families or their exceptions/ goals for their child. According to Block (2014) it states "Conducting home visit as part of Infant and Toddler caregiving exemplifies best practice... Conducting home visit allows educators to better understand a child's home environment, establish strong relationship with families, share tools and strategies that support families in learning about child-development, emphasize parent's role in being their child's first teacher and identify ways to incorporate a family's culture into the child care settings" (p.1) All these information is learned when teachers take the time and consideration of conducting these home visit to make their child learning a little bit more smoother.

My goals for working with infants-toddlers is to make sure I am connecting with the families and establishing those attachment/ relationships that are crucial for the development of infant children. I want my parents and my children to feel loved, nurtured, valued and welcome not only for my parents but for everyone who is coming inside the classroom. I want people to feel like they are not being judged and that overall the children are happy and are developing at their

own pace. What I look forward the most is being in a classroom setting and seeing the everyday actions that we have been reading about over the semester in action. I believe I will bring discipline, comfort and open-mindedness. I am willing to learn new strategies and be inspired by this fieldwork.

After I complete my degree at BMCC I plan to transfer to Hunter or City College and continue with education. I do not know if I will stay with my goal of becoming a teacher with my own classroom or if I will enjoy working in the ECE field but not necessarily inside the classroom. I have been in school for a while and I just want to finish and be proud of what I accomplish I want to feel no regrets for taking “so long” to get a degree and finally be “somebody”. I plan to achieve these goals by putting myself first and understanding that this is my college journey and it is unique for me and no one else. I will have great communication and establish relationship with my professor who will be the ones helping me in feeling confident and ready to become the infant teacher or a director of an infant-toddler site. This semester has really showed me that education is where I belong but I still need practice and experience to become the greatest teacher ever.