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Commentary Paper

James is such an ongoing and smart baby. As I did my observation on James I got to see a few things about him that stood out to me. One of the things that stood out to me was how happy and friendly James was. James being happy and friendly stood out to me the most because some babies wouldn't go to you or even pay you any mind if they do not trust you, with James he was really happy. When I interviewed the family James' mom Shereece explained her Prenatal history to me. James' mom started off by saying she had a good pregnancy experience because she had a good support system. Another thing she stated about her pregnancy was that certain foods she wasn't able to eat because of the way that James would react to it. During her pregnancy she was nervous due to the fact that she had a baby growing inside of her at first she didn't know what to do.

However, when it was time to give birth it was a blessing to James. James came out 7 pounds and 8 ounces. During giving birth James' mom was in labor for 9 hours. When James came out his mom cried tears of joy she was so happy to bring her new bundle of joy home. James' grandma and father were also very excited. His mom couldn't wait to bring her new bundle of joy home.

The early birth days with James were very tiring and exhausting. Every night for 3 months his mom would have to wake up to feed him and also change his pampers. With the help of grandma and his dad some nights the job always got done. James always slept through the day and stayed up for the majority of the night. James didn't like a pacifier. Sometimes in order for him to sleep he would have to get rocked to sleep for about 5-10 minutes. Changing James' diaper never was a problem for his mom. She was a first time mom. James would poop a lot in the beginning but once his mom started to see that she switched his formulas.

James used his Gross motor skills a lot. James is always holding onto objects while trying to walk. Some days he would crawl over the mat to reach out for the objects that he wants. James feeds himself, he sits in a high chair and all you have to do is put his breakfast on the tray and he will eat everything by himself. He loves to sing his ABC's and James also knows how to count to 7. James likes to move on his own. His mom said she always makes sure that she has activities that can support James' development and also activities that can support his movement. In the beginning stages when James was 4 months his mom always placed him on the carpet and he would always look around his mom said it reminded her of a baby floating.

Baby James loves to roll over James rolling over was the first thing his mom saw him do independently he was trying to reach for an object. According to the story (Pica 2010), it talked about babies on the move. From reading this I understood that babies have to learn to move on their own rather than moving to learn. This reading also spoke about rolling over babies' first move without any help from an adult. The reading (Pica

2010) made me think of James because his mom told me that rolling over was one of his first movements independently. One of James' favorite games to play is peek-a-boo. Everytime it is time to play this game James is always cheeing and happy. Repeating the steps of the game can help babies develop. The reading (Pica 2010) also spoke about how babies can learn through play.

Another reading that I can relate to this family and infant, is the reading called (Honig 2007). This reading talked about the physical development of babies. This reading also talked about babies movements in the early stage such as placing them on their stomach and giving them an opportunity to look around. This reading reminded me of the infant because his mom told me she used to place James on his stomach and he would look around and observe different things. (Honig,2007,P20) states “ Babies dp, however, need adult assistance in feeling safe and supported in their movement attempts”. This quote means that babies do need adult assistance in order to feel safe.

I can also relate this family to the reading called (Gillespie 2019) . This reading spoke about why it is important to read to babies. It also spoke about how reading to babies can help build their vocabulary and also their reading skills. Also, reading to babies daily can help the infant and toddler get familiar with certain languages. According to the reading (Gillespie 2019) it states “A key factor is being conversational while reading aloud, including talking about and labeling pictures and characters and emotions”. This reading is insisting that you should be conversational while reading to toddlers. I can connect this to James and his family because James mom told me that she always takes 30 minutes out of her day to read to James. One of her favorite books

to read to James is the book called “Baby Einstein Amazing Animals”. This is one of her favorite books to read to James because it gives her an opportunity to teach James about different animals and point to animals and say what they are.

In addition, James' mom is teaching James to grow up as a respectful gentleman. She wants James to grow up in a way that her father taught her. She said she wants James to be a gentleman and also she wants James to chase his dreams. She said that she plans on raising a king so that he can treat his wife like a queen, just how her dad treated her mom. In my opinion I believe that this is one of family cultural practices because she is teaching her son respect at a young age for the future and for his caregivers.

Moreover , the article (Peterson 2012) spoke about how children who have adults that are attentive to them and also adults who care deeply about the children have a well constructed brain. This reading also spoke about how children need support in their first three years of life. This is very important. James' mom insisted that her goal is to always be very attentive to her child in his early stages even after that. She told me that she believes that the first 3 stages in James' life is very important. She wants to continue to support James in his early development by reading to him and giving him blocks so that he can do math problems. Since his childcare center is closed she wants to continue doing the things that were happening in his childcare center.

In conclusion, Overall within this semester I was able to gain knowledge on different types of areas and also I was able to gain a better view on infants and toddlers. Before I entered ECE209L I didn't know much about toddlers and infants. With the help of each

reading on each different topic I got to look at things different. I got to write down ideas that I think will be important when I get to become a teacher. ECE209L made me want to continue in the teacher field because of how interesting it was.