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ECE 409

Professor Gilken

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## **Teaching Belief Statement**

I believe children should learn through play and be free to explore the world. My goal is to create a space where children will be able to explore their classrooms without getting hurt. I want to have a space where children have materials that they see in their everyday lives. My goal is to make sure my students are prepared for the world around them. I want my students to know that I will be there for them and that they feel safe and secure.

I believe parents and families play a major role in a child's life as They are the first point of contact from birth. Parents and families are role models for a child as they grow up. They provide structure and play a major role in the development of the child's growth. I also feel parents and families should work together as a unit in the caregiving of their children. So working together with families is a major deal for me because they put so much trust in me. I want families to feel comfortable in knowing they can get the proper care for their children.

As a teacher, I will be kind and sensitive to each child's needs and wants. I will be patient. As a teacher should teach each child based on their unique learning abilities.

When I interact with infants/toddlers/families is very soft and warm. I allow my infants and toddlers to lead the way. When I first meet an infant or toddler I allow them to warm up and explore the classroom while I'm observing. I have a passion for getting to know the child and then learning about the family to see why the child may or may not do something. If someone was to observe me they would see a Teacher who is loving and takes the time to get to know the

child. They would see a Teacher who is creating new ways to communicate with nonverbal children while still teaching the students who Don't need much support. They would see that the children are so happy when they engage in any activity. They would see a Teacher who is allowing her children to explore the room how they choose.

I want to work with young children because this is the age when you can set the foundation for their futures. Many young children are missed diagnosed because no one took the time to learn the child. I am very patient loving and caring toward each child's needs. Learning to me is when a child is happy to accomplish small goals. Learning to me is when I can help a family properly support their child's developmental needs. This is meaningful to me because when you see a family so frustrated because their child is having tantrums and they Don't know what to do. Well after observing this child I realized she couldn't speak. So I started looking into a way to communicate to see if this was the problem. So I started using gestures and I used my body to guide her to tell me what hurt. I spoke with the family about the plan I came up with and it worked. I could see a change in the child because she started to participate in the activities without getting frustrated. The families eventually received services. It is my role to make sure I give my children and their families the support to give these children the best future.

I want to have a center where families from all nations feel welcome to be apart. I will continue to allow the children to take the lead so I can learn from them. This will help me better teach each child at their level.