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Final Project Commentary Paper

In early childhood, it's a time for children to learn and grow with different units of studies. Early childhood development is how a person develops later on in life. It gives reasons to how a child acts, behaves, and thinks. Children learn through "play." Play is the main way children learn and develop. Play helps children open up to new ideas. It allows children to explore and have an imagination and give them a sense of adventure. Through play they can learn and develop different domains of skills. It helps children improve in things and impact children's learning experiences.

Throughout the 15 weeks in ECE 211 we as educators got to decide what unit studies we wanted to focus on and expand it into many activities for children. Each activity we created focuses on a book or song to help children with their thinking skills and knowledge. When I was a pre-k teacher assistant, I was mostly in charge of helping the head teacher, supporting the children and also making sure our classroom was perfect for each month. I remember I was always in charge of the dramatic play center. I was creative, colorful, and out of the box one. My imagination was taken to a whole other level when creating activities, and lessons for children to learn from. Every month was a different unit of studies. Each month we changed out the toys, materials, books and art work to pin the main focus on what we are learning about next. Therefore that's why I focus all my 15 weeks on Five Senses. Professor Kristin broke down ways we can help children develop these activities through play, literature, 5 domains and creativity. The unit five senses has so much you can learn from when it comes to playing, reading, writing, making activities and interactions with others. There are five senses, which means we can't fit all into 1 week. I focused my lesson plans and activities on how I can expand one topic into so many.

Senses allow us to observe and understand the world around us. There are five main ways we can do this, through sight with our eyes, touch with our fingers, smell with our nose, taste with our tongue and also hearing with our ears. All these senses help allow children to develop their growth and learning through cognitive/thinking, physical, social/emotional, and language/literacy. The importance of five senses is the learning process and how we can help children identify what sense they are using in certain activities. The five senses are all the primary means we use to help gain new knowledge and information. Therefore using all senses help children learn to be more meaningful and useful when it comes to learning. Five senses allow children to collect information about the environment by making memories to what we learn. Children make sense to the information being told based on past experiences they faced.

Children will continue to learn through play of exploration with an exciting topic focused on “We Have Five Senses” Together children will explore, investigate, and understand themselves and our world. Children naturally will explore the world around them through each of their senses. In this Unit, children will focus on developing the Physical Development and Health Skills described in Domain 2. Using their senses to assist and guide learning throughout play. Children will demonstrate increasing awareness and understanding of safety rules. Children will also learn to identify what senses they are using in certain activities provided. Children will be engaged, and informative. Literary texts provide opportunities for exploring content, expressing ideas using one’s imagination, and critical thinking that are enhanced through multiple readings, songs and activities.

One of the topics I focused mainly on was “exploring what we see”, I used the toilet paper rolls to expand and drive deeper into more activities. Children were allowed to join us in the art center during center time and make their own toilet paper binoculars. Children were allowed the use of many loose materials, writing tools, glue etc. Children had images and examples of other binoculars to get a better picture of what to create. Binoculars are great to create when it comes to STEAM. The word STEAM is also known for science, tech, engineering, arts and math in early childhood programs. These binoculars are not just incredible for encouraging children to engage with play-pretend but it focuses on the environment too. It lets children explore the outside nature and what's around their surroundings. We as

educators ask ourselves, what child doesn't like to play pretend? Not only is pretend play with the binoculars but also an exciting way for children to develop their social and emotional skills. It allows children to explore and be independent around the classroom. Children can take things they imagine into reality and be who they want to be with the binoculars.