

Professional Learning Journal Entries

Weeks 5-10

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EDUC90- Interactive learning with the child

Week 5

This week was an interesting and engaging week as I gained a new and deeper knowledge and meaning of the importance of documenting and reflecting on children's moments in the play. This week I learned the importance of reflecting deeply on what children are thinking, experiencing, creating and so much more when documenting. The video in this week's reading was really inspiring to see the educator's approach to Reggio inspired environments. I really like that throughout the video they explain that documentation is just part of the cycle of children's learning experience that educators can help build on. I also gained new knowledge of the importance of creating an environment with children. This doesn't mean necessarily asking them what they want to learn about but using our observations of their interest and building on the programming from that.

I also really liked that they gathered together in a community to reflect on their documentation and gain further perspectives. Everyone brought a piece of documentation that contributed to a moment in the play and reflected on their image of the child as well as their knowledge in in-depth detail. During their gathering, they communicated their perspectives and ideas as a community.

Near the end of the video, they showed a picture that was a beautiful outdoor environment with so many activities for children to engage in including natural plants So many inquiries for children including, ecosystems and their cycle and so much more. As an educator, this is an environment I would love to be a part of.

Learning outcomes meet this week include: 1,2,3,4,5,8,9,10

Week 6

This week we watched a documentary based on the voices of children. As an educator, this video changed my perspective of not only my image of children but of children's voices. What really stood out for me was that throughout the video they showed early learning centers from around the world and children engaging in all different types of play and exploration. What also really stood out for me was that educators all over the world were giving children the freedom to explore their world through risky play and viewing children as competent in their own choices. For example in the video children were running and walking on a path without shoes and loving it. They were also climbing trees and sinking their feet in the mud.

Nearing the end of the video an educator was talking to a little boy. The little boy was explaining that they should have safer play areas for babies that are different from play areas for bigger children. This really stood out for me because I personally wouldn't think that a child of his age would be thinking about the greater good of others or even safety aspects and this is what changed my image of children as being compassionate and knowledgeable.

Learning outcomes met this week include: 4,7,9,10

Week 7

This week we talked about educator's professionalism and our professional role in early learning environments and with children. As an early learning educators, we set examples for children and work with families and it's important to be professional in our interactions. This week what stood out for me was when we talked about our professional judgment and making difficult decisions that are best for the child and their families. This was a topic I personally wanted to know more about as I enter this profession. I thought about this topic deeply and remembered that in one of our courses last semester we briefly touched on this subject. We talked about as educators we respect families and want to support their ideas and needs for their children within our environment but we also need to abide by our professional documents from the college of ECE's. This is where a crossroad occurs and educators need to make an ethical decision for what's best in the child's case. As I continue my studies this is still a topic I would want to know more about and how to effectively make these decisions

Aside from professional judgment in the reading we also talked about educators being knowledgeable when communicating. What really stood out for me in this aspect is the word "advice". When we talk to families reaching out for support for their children it's important that educators are knowledgeable about what they are telling families and not giving incorrect information. Not only does that reflect badly on the educators but on the center as well and does not contribute to our professionalism.

Learning outcomes met this week include: 2,6,7,10

Week 9

Something that really stood out for me this week was in the blog written by Diane Kashin she talks about the importance of understanding that knowledge is always changing and as early learning professionals we are always seeking new ways to learn. This statement stuck in my mind this week as I was able to go home to visit my family. My little brother is only 4 years old and is so active and curious about everything around him. Right now he is on the stage of "why" as he wonders about everything. As I observed him using his car ramp toy and toy cars by putting them at the top of the ramp watching as they race down to the bottom. After doing this a few times he used the cars pushing them from the bottom to the top. He looked at me with excitement and a smile and continued his play. I think pushing the car up the opposite way was new knowledge for him as he hasn't tried to do this before. Observing childrens seeing what children are interested in and reading their body language.

Something that also stood out for me this week was the many ways that we listen to children with and without listening directly to what they are saying. The article pedagogy of listening was really informative and detailed in the way that we as educators can listen to children through body language, experiences and much more. New learning for me was that through listening to children in detail we not only create a positive relationship with them we can understand their actions and their thinking in learning.

Learning outcomes meet this week include: 3,4,5,7,9

Week 10

This week we looked deeper into the meaning of the documentation process. I find it so important and exciting to be a part of the reflection and documentation community. The in-depth richness of learning that we share as early learning professionals is breathtaking as we think of new ways to support children. The video in this week's reading called piazza piazze was especially inspiring because of the amount of Imagery they included in their documentation of the children's play. In each picture, I could see the amount of joy, wonder, exploration, questioning, excitement and so much more within their facial expressions.

I also think this is a great representation for involving parents and guardians because it invites them to see what their children are doing and learning throughout the day. What really stood out for me is that they capture what children were thinking about and then record their age and their name. I think this is important for not only educators and families but for children as well. When children can see what they have done in the past and reflect on their learning later they learn new ways to be creative.

Overall this week I really loved the video because from an educator's point of view it was amazingly inspirational.

Learning outcomes meet this week include: 1,2,3,4,5,9,10

Learning outcomes for EDUC90

1. promote a sense of belonging, partnership and acceptance of all children and their families, reflecting on their uniqueness and strengths.
2. Establish partnerships with families to promote engagement in children's early learning.
3. Co-design the physical, social and emotional indoor and outdoor environments to support all children's ongoing holistic development and learning, including children with special needs.
4. Observe children to understand, respond to and extend upon their learning interests and approaches to learning.
5. Engage in pedagogical documentation processes to make children's thinking and learning visible, e.g., digital/electronic platforms, documentation panels, portfolios and learning stories.
6. Maintain clear and appropriate professional boundaries with children and families and colleagues.
7. Practice in compliance with the College of Early Childhood Educators' current Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice.
8. Effect change in one's own communication and professional practice, based on professional feedback received.
9. Engage in critical reflection and collaborative inquiry with colleagues, children and families to question theory and practice, discuss ideas, test theories and to share learning.
10. Collaborate with others in early learning teams to reflect knowledge and value respective roles and scope of practice.

(EDUC90- Interactive Learning with the Child, 2020)

References

EDUC90- Interactive Learning with the Child (2020, Sept.) Retrieved from Fleming College Desire2Learn:

<https://fleming.desire2learn.com/d2l/le/content/132167/viewContent/1459330/View>