****

**Assessment #6**

**Pre and Post Philosophy of Early Childhood** **Education Paper**

**(EDEC 3000 and EDEC 4840)**

**Description of Assessment #6**

The **Pre-assessment** of this paper will be assigned to candidates in the Introduction to Early Childhood Education course during their sophomore year. The **Post-assessment** of this paper will be assigned during candidates’ student teaching experience in their senior year. Candidates will be given the same directions (as described below) for both pre and post implementations and assessments will be examined for change over time.

This assessment aligns to NAEYC standards:   
1a. Knowing and understanding young children’s characteristics and needs  
1b. Knowing and understanding multiple influences on development and learning  
1c. Using developmental knowledge to create healthy, respectful, supportive, and challenging learning environments  
2a. Knowing about and understanding diverse family and community characteristics

2b. Supporting and engaging families and communities through respectful, reciprocal relationships

2c**.** Involving families and communities in young children’s development and learning

3b. Knowing about and using observation, documentation, and other appropriate assessment tools and approaches, including the use of *technology* in documentation, assessment and data collection.

3c. Understanding and practicing responsible assessment to promote positive outcomes for each child, including the use of assistive *technology* for children with disabilities.

3d. Knowing about assessment partnerships with families and with professional colleagues to build effective learning environments.  
4a. Understanding positive relationships and supportive interactions as the foundation of their work with young children

4b. Knowing and understanding effective strategies and tools for early education, including appropriate uses of technology

4c. Using a broad repertoire of developmentally appropriate teaching /learning approaches

4d. Reflecting on own practice to promote positive outcomes for each child

6a. Identifying and involving oneself with the early childhood field

6b. Knowing about and upholding ethical standards and other early childhood professional guidelines

6c. Engaging in continuous, collaborative learning to inform practice; using technology effectively with young children, with peers, and as a professional resource.

6d. Integrating knowledgeable, reflective, and critical perspectives on early education

In this assessment, you are asked to develop your own philosophy of early childhood education using your knowledge of child development and learning, understanding of assessment, and your knowledge about building family relationships and connecting with children and families.

Description of the Assignment

In collaboration with your instructor and other professionals, use of varied sources of information on early childhood education, and personal observations and experiences in early childhood settings, you will develop a well-organized and comprehensive paper that describes your own philosophy of early childhood education. This philosophy paper will inform your decision-making as a new teacher in diverse early learning settings. The philosophy paper should follow these guidelines:

Guidelines for the Assignment

Writing a philosophy of education paper is an essential requirement in shaping your own belief system and developing a framework for decision-making as a future teacher. The purpose of this assignment is to encourage you to put down on paper the strong beliefs and values that you have developed through coursework, practicum experiences, and other life experiences. Below are guidelines for developing your paper:

The philosophy paper should include the following elements:

* Purpose and goals of early childhood education
* View of the child as a learner
* Optimal environments for learning for the very young child
* Characteristics of the effective early childhood teacher
* Role of the community and parental involvement in early childhood education
* Theories and theorists who have influenced your thinking about teaching young children
* Essential elements of a developmentally appropriate curriculum for young children
* Other elements that students believe are important to explain their own philosophy of early childhood education
* Reference list using at least 3 professional sources
* Use of citations within the text of the paper
* Double space using APA guidelines

The draft of the philosophy paper will be submitted on a designated date. After careful review and feedback by the instructor, the student is expected to make final revisions and submit the paper as part of the final course portfolio. Assistance is available on an ongoing basis in the writing or editing of this philosophy paper.