

CHLD 101: Introduction to Early Childhood Education

Bloomington Day Care

Learning Outcomes	3. Compare and contrast funding sources, organization's structure, program practices and legal requirements, and policies for diverse early childhood settings and programs. 9. Identify observation, screening, and assessment techniques and demonstrate competencies in observation techniques, synthesis, and analysis by observing in diverse early childhood programs and analyzing information gathered with respect to the role and influence of culture, linguistic, and ability diversity.
DEC Recommended Practices	C5. Environments are designed and activities are conducted so that children learn or are exposed to multiple cultures and languages by, among other practices, allowing children and families to share their cultures and languages with others to the extent they desire. C6. Learning environments meet accepted standards of quality including curriculum, child-staff ratios, group size, and physical design of classroom.
NAEYC Standards	1c. Using developmental knowledge to create healthy, respectful, supportive, and challenging learning environments.

Bloomington Day Care is a NAEYC Accredited, non-profit agency located at 309 E Wood St. The program serves a very low-income population, and a large portion of the clientele is culturally and linguistically diverse. The purpose of this field experience is to specifically focus on the learning environment the staff has created and look for elements of Universal Design.

To prepare for this field experience:

- Review Chapter 11: The Learning Environment.
- Review “*Universal design for learning: Creating a learning environment that challenges and engages all students*” Available from: <http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/udl/chalcycle.htm>
- Call Bloomington Day Care Center at (309) 829-1541. Ask for the director and tell her you need to observe for your CHLD 101: Introduction to Early Childhood Education class.

Part I: Center Visit. Be prepared to observe within the environment for an hour. While observing, take objective notes on what you observe using one of the observation methods outlined on the class handout “**Common Observation Strategies.**”

Please remember: When you are undertaking a field experience within an ECE environment, you are looking at one point in time. As a result, what you see may be a specific response to a unique situation and not always reflective of common practices. Therefore, field experiences must be conducted with an open mind.

Part II: Reflection. Based on your observation completed during Part I, please respond to each of the following:

- Questions pertaining to method:
 - What method of observation did you use to collect data?
 - What did you see as the strengths and weaknesses of this method?
- Questions pertaining to environment:
 - Describe the setting you were observing within, including:
 - Type of facility and classroom
 - Number of children
 - Number of staff
 - Activities occurring during observation time period
 - Other relevant information (whether families were in the room, how children responded to strangers, etc.)
 - What environmental and interaction strategies are used to support child and family diversity?
 - What did you see as the environment's strengths?
 - What did you see as the environment's challenges?
- Questions pertaining to children:
 - Describe the diversity-related characteristics of children within the classroom environment.
 - How were children interacting with the environment?
 - Did you feel there was a sense of classroom community?
 - Did the children seem engaged?
 - Would you suggest any strategies to support further engagement?
- Questions pertaining to staff:
 - How was the staff interacting with the children and each other?
 - Did the staff seem engaged?
 - Would you suggest any strategies to support further engagement?
- Questions specific to Bloomington Day Care:
 - What Universal Design elements did you observe within the early childhood environment?
 - What suggestions or alternations would you make for the environment based on Universal Design principles. Please include a rationale.
- Links to your learning:
 - In what ways did your field experience complement what you have learned in the course?
 - In what ways did your field experience contradict what you have learned in the course?
 - How do observed practices reflect evidence-based practices you have learned about in the course?
 - Did you feel the program was individually and developmentally appropriate?

After you complete your field experience:

- Submit your objective notes collected in Part I and your Reflection developed in Part II to your instructor.