

CHLD 101: Introduction to Early Childhood Education

Kids Club East

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.
NAEYC Standards	1c. Using developmental knowledge to create healthy, respectful, supportive, and challenging learning environments.

The purpose of this field experience is to provide you with an opportunity to become familiar with a local non-profit program and their approach to meeting the developmental needs of a diverse population of children and families. Kids Club East is licensed to serve 83 children. It has a large Hispanic population and 95% of the children are from low-income families. They serve infants from 6 weeks up to 5 year-old children.

To prepare for this observation:

- Review Chapter 5: Understanding Child Diversity.
- Call 661-5600 and schedule an appointment. Indicate to them that this is your field experience for CHLD 101: Introduction to Early Childhood Education.
- Read this entire assignment carefully so you know what questions you will be addressing in your Reflection.

Part I: Program 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 Kids Club East:
 - What practices and community partnerships are in place to support their economically diverse population?
- 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.