

CHLD 201: Child Development Practicum I

Shadow an Early Interventionist – alternative assignment

Virtual Shadowing of an Early Interventionist

Learning Outcomes	6. Use assessment data, evidence-based practices, and appropriate materials to plan, implement, assess and modify activities supporting all domains of development including the reading, writing, and oral communication of children who are culturally, linguistically, and ability diverse.
DEC Recommended Practices	I8 Team members use a transdisciplinary model to plan and deliver interventions. I17 Team members plan to provide services and conduct interventions in natural learning environments.
NAEYC Standards	3a. Understanding the goals, benefits, and uses of assessment

The Child Development Lab collaborates with Easter Seals and/or Project SPICE for related services for most children receiving early intervention. The therapists serve the children in the child's classroom and coach the parent and classroom teachers regarding effective strategies needed to support the child's development and learning. For this assignment you indicated that you do not have access to a therapist as they work with a young child and are unable to utilize the CDL. We have videotaped one of the Physical Therapists from Easter Seals while she was using the "push-in" model of services for one of our two year olds from a mixed-age infant/toddler room.

To complete this assignment successfully:

- Read "*The importance of early intervention for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.*"
 - Goode, S., Diefendorf, M., & Colgan, S. (2011, July). *The importance of early intervention for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.* Chapel Hill: National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center. Available from <http://www.nectac.org/~pdfs/pubs/importanceofearlyintervention.pdf>
- You will be watching a Physical Therapist working with a young child and meeting his mother who has struggled with uncertainties as to a diagnosis of her son's condition. At the time this was filmed his diagnosis was Marfan Syndrome. If you are not familiar with this syndrome, you may want to follow this link and learn about it.
 - National Marfan Foundation. (2012). *National Marfan Foundation website.* Available from <http://www.marfan.org/>
- Consider what you have learned about the importance of the inclusion for Early Intervention as you watch these 2 short videos. To view the video, please paste the url that begins with mms in to your browser.

1. The first video shows one of his typical sessions with a Physical Therapist from Easter Seals. She is following DEC Recommended Practice I17 as she provides services and conducts interventions in a natural learning environment. Just out of range of the camera you occasionally catch a glimpse of the classroom teacher. The PT is modeling and sometimes explaining how different strategies should be used with him. Linda will in turn share this information with the other classroom staff and Deegan's mother since she was unable to be present. As you watch try to:
 - Identify the various goals that are being addressed.
 - Listen for the recommendations and ideas shared by teachers and therapist.
 - Note what the PT does to include the other classmates and to keep the therapy feeling like a play session. Does it remain a "natural learning environment"?

Heartland Equity and Inclusion Project (HEIP). (2012). *Classroom Therapist Deegan Interactions Video*. Available from <http://youtu.be/oI3zzpB1340>

2. The second video provides thoughts from Deegan's Mom as she openly discusses the journey she has been on since her memorable ultrasound during her pregnancy until today. She is remarkably candid as she discusses the challenges they face and her concerns for the future. She also remarks about the relationships she has developed with the child's teachers and therapists as they accommodate the child's needs and maximize his participation.

Heartland Equity and Inclusion Project (HEIP). (2012). *Deegan's Story Video*. Available from <http://youtu.be/yJleZQIBYMc>

After viewing the therapy session:

- Write and submit your assignment as soon as possible so that it is still a vivid memory and include:
 - A summary of what you experienced.
 - How you feel his development was supported within the classroom environment.
 - How the transdisciplinary model works for this child. How did the teacher help the therapist and in reverse how did the therapist help the teacher?
 - Thoughts on how you (pretend you are the parapro in this room) may be able to modify your interactions with this child to support the work of the intervention team.
 - Your opinion of the importance of this inclusive model of early intervention for this child, the family, the physical therapist and the classroom teachers.