

Chapter 10

Teacher Styles, Guidance and Ethics in Working with Young Children and Child Maltreatment

Early Childhood Teachers

- 60-70% of children are in some form of early childhood program
- Salaries for child care and preschool teachers are 17,000-36,000 per year with most in the lower end
- Most child care providers have high school diploma or less
- Turnover in child care is over 30%
- Preservice requirements for teaching in child care can be as little as 10 hours of training

Teacher Development Stages

- Survival
- Consolidation
- Renewal
- Maturity
- What risk factors at each stage could propel a teacher towards child maltreatment?

Teachers and Culture

- Children who are abused are at greater risk if teacher lacks cultural understanding of child
- Teachers with multicultural training less likely to see children of different cultures from a deficit viewpoint
- Must avoid ethnocentric explanations of child's behavior
- Teachers must be aware of attitudes and ideas toward different cultures

Teacher Guidance Strategies

- Positive
 - Praise
 - Empathy
 - Encouragement
- Negative
 - Reprimanding
 - Belittling
 - Physical punishment

Children and expulsion from preschool

- 1 out of 10 teachers have expelled a preschooler in the past year
- Children of color more likely to be expelled
- Children who are abused are more likely to exhibit difficult behaviors and are more at-risk for expulsion
- Teachers and schools for maltreated children can provide safe haven and protection in preschool

Guidance

- A general plan of how to assist children in setting up appropriate guidelines in a classroom
- Children need
 - Less reward and punishment
 - More self-directed learning
 - More cooperative learning

Specific Guidance Strategies

- Identify problems by keeping a record of specific examples including times and how the child acted.
- Define and prioritize behaviors.
- Decide exactly how much change in the behavior would be required.
- Develop specific interventions you will use to help the child change his behavior.
- Discuss the need to change the behavior with the child when possible and decide on consequences, both positive and negative.

Specific Guidance Strategies

- Keep a record of the types of interventions you try, when you use them and how effective they are.
- Communicate calmly at child's level
- Show respect
- Be aware of how child may view your body and facial language

Teacher Stress and Anger

- Child maltreatment in the classroom is often a function of teacher stress and anger.
- Most teachers believe that yelling at children is harmful but most admit to having insulted or yelled at a child.
- Personal experiences often lead to classroom stress and anger.

Emotional Abuse by Teachers

- International recognition of problem
- Behaviors
 - Regular displays of anger and yelling
 - Verbal assaults
 - Harsh criticism
 - Lack of nurturing behavior
- Scale of Subtle Emotional Abuse

Avoiding Emotional Abuse in the Classroom

- Put away personal problems when they walk in the classroom.
- Identify the different temperaments in your classroom and your own. Then develop a plan for being more positive with those children.
- Attend guidance workshops, read books watch video, and talk to colleagues about their guidance techniques.

Avoiding Emotional Abuse in the Classroom

- Get to know each child in your classroom on a personal basis.
- Be loving and kind.
- When you are feeling overwhelmed by a child, take a deep breath, ask for someone to come in and relieve you for 10 minutes and take a walk, or send the child to another teacher on an errand.

Physical Discipline by Teachers

- Historical physical discipline by teachers
 - Writing with left hand received whack with rod
 - Spanking or paddling with object
 - Rapping on knuckles
 - Pulling of ears
- Today half of states allow spanking in schools
 - Usually very regulated as to how it is done
- Most child care licensing rules do not allow spanking
- Five year old arrested?
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_lg34hQQXo&feature=related

Sexual Abuse by Professionals

- 38% of students in one study reported being aware of sexual harassment by teachers or school personnel
- 7% reported begin sexually harassed
- Many incidences occur as a result of a child and teacher being left alone
- How can sexual abuse and harassment charges be avoided by professionals

Teachers and Family Interactions

- Welcome new children and families.
- Contact them frequently by phone, e-mail and letter to let them know what is happening in the classroom, particularly positive things.
- Offer compliment sandwiches.

Teachers and Family Interactions

- Keep discussions with parents private and respectful.
- Build your own support system by talking with mentors, reading and using supervisors to help you in dealing with the parents and family.
- Engage others in using a comprehensive approach. Be willing to talk with caseworkers, medical personnel and counselors and encourage parents to involve you with these professionals to build the best possible interventions for a child.

Ethical Standards

- Ethical guidelines are outlined by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and the National Education Association
- Ethical responsibilities
 - to report abuse
 - To support families
 - To provide appropriate guidance and education for children
- What other ethical responsibilities are outlined by professional organizations that relate to child maltreatment?