**Philosophy Paper**

**Submitted to**

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The Role of the Educator Essay

Educators have many roles that they may play during the course of the day. Educators form relationships with children, families and community. They also plan, participate, observe and evaluate activities. By forming relationships and participating with the children educators can learn more about the children which allows for them to better teach students.

As an early childhood educator we form relationships not only with our students but with their families as well. It is our responsibility to know what is going on at home and to be there as a support system for children and families. Being involved and having a relationship with a childs family allows for us to have a better understanding of each childs situation which in turns helps us teach and care for them. By getting to know a childs family we has access to information about each childs beliefs, ideas, customs etc which help us to plan and implement activities that are relevant and interesting to the children. As an educator we may also form ties with other people in our community. We should try to create healthy relationships with all community members to ensure that we give children the best possible learning experience’s . Working alongside others in the community may give children more opportunities to develop in all domains. Having relationships with the community can help you to provide additional services to children and families such as directing them to a local health or family centre.

In the field of early childhood education we play alongside the children and in turn we learn as they do. The educators’ role is to initiate, participate, guide/motivate, encourage/respond, intervene/troubleshoot and observe during activities. To initiate an activity an educator may simply place materials at the activity section however sometimes we might need to give a brief statement or explanation of materials. Educators may also use provocations for play such as open ended questions to spark the child’s creativity and inspire them. Educators will need to sit with the children and participate in use of the materials. Some children will need to be shown how to use materials but not modeled at a level above their capability. You may have to squeeze a large amount of glue on a piece of paper and place an image into it to show how glue works. Children may need guidance during an activity specifically if they are having a hard time participating. You may choose to create a more comfortable environment by describing to them what you like about a childs art. Rather than saying just “good job” explain specifically that you like how they used a variety of images and spaced them out well. By explaining what you like about their process you give them motivation and encouragement to continue their participation in the activity without feeling discouraged. Safety is always a concern with children and it is important for the educator to watch closely to ensure that the environment is safe. Children may also begin to feel emotional and if this happens or an activity is unsafe the educator may have to step in and fix the situation. Educators should always be observing activities and recording information about how it goes. Educators may evaluate if and how their developmental objectives where met in order to think about how they can change the activity if objectives are not met and ensure the childs development. Also during reflections educators will explain the childrens response to the activity evaluating which aspects worked, which didn’t and how they may change and or better the activity. Through the observations and evaluation of how children behaved educators are able to learn more about the children and what sort of activities will allow them the best opportunities to learn and develop.

By creating relationships with people close to your students and playing alongside them you can gain endless amounts of information which are crucial to your planning. It is because of this information that you as an educator can plan activities that will be of interest and will allow children the best opportunities to learn. You will also learn what it is like to be in their shoes, how they think and perceive. It is by understanding the childrens points of view and how they see the world that we can teach them.

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