Henrietta Rema Sawyerr

ECED 803 Teaching Analysis Assignment

Class observation and summary

On Thursday February 25th 2016, I interviewed Dr. Vesely, whose is an assistant in at George Mason University professor at the College of Education and Human Development. Dr. Vesely teaches ECED 504 which focuses on engaging families of diverse young learners. To be precise, this course focuses on the strategies for developing culturally appropriate family professional partnerships to benefit children, including children from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds and children with special needs. The course also explores theories and research supporting a family centered approach, including family and professional rights and responsibilities, especially in the special education process (ECED 504 Spring 2016 Syllabus).

Description of the class participants and context

The students in her class are mostly undergraduate students and students pursuing a master's degree. Most of the students are in the Early Childhood Education Program at George Are the HDFS students in this class? Based on your interview summary, it sounds Mason University. Some of the students are in the Human Development and Family Science like they are not in this class, but that program. The students in her class are pre-service teachers and some are assistant teachers. In the terms of race and ethnicity, majority of the students are international students from Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, China, and Singapore. That's interesting. Most teacher prep courses have a high number students who are White, Black, or Latino in her class?

The classroom environment was well organized. Student desks were arranged in a semicircular form or a U-shaped form. This to me was very effective because the instructor could see all the students. During my observation, I noticed that the instructor could maintain eye contact with all the students and this was a good way of monitoring students during the class and ^{Good}

who is

Good description

because (See APA manual for use of

because and since.)

ensuring that students were actively engaged in the learning process since this arrangement made it easy for the instructor to interact with the students in class. I also noticed that student had name tags and these name tags were displayed on their desk. This allowed the instructor to This is clearly identify students easily and refer to them by their names. The instructor stood in front of the described. students the entire time during the whole group class discussion but during the small group class discussion the instructor would go around and interact with the students, asking questions and monitoring students as they did their small group discussion.

Descriptions of class lectures and activities

What do you mean by "sort of"?

The instructor provided an agenda for the students and sort of had a brief discussion on the the expectations for students submitting memo assignment. The instructor also went over the requirements for students making home visits to the families of the children they teach. The began lesson begun with a review of what was previously discussed in class. The discussion was on Good reason. implicit biases. This review on implicit biases was done because they had missed a class the Sometimes reviews are also done to previous week due to the snow and so the instructor was trying to make up for that snow day. link previous learning with The instructor started by asking students to recall the notion of implicit biases. Students current learning influence responded by saying that implicit biases influences our decisions and that it refers to the attitudes. Add comma - See APA. or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in our unconscious minds. According to Darling-Hammond & Bransford, 2007), prior knowledge includes formal learning. This to me is a good way to assess what students already know about implicit biases and to review content learned.

The instructor did a PowerPoint presentation and showed video clips about the National Equity Project. The Power Point presentation focused on the meaning of equity. The instructor asked students to define or explain the term equity. One student responded and stated that

"equity means equal balance of resources or information and that there is the need to promote justice and everyone needs to be treated equally." Another student mentioned that "it is important to encourage each child to express his or her voice." The instructor went to on with the lesson and wanted to know the difference between equity and equality. The students interacted with the instructor distinguishing between the two terms. The instructor went on and stated that "Equity aims to give people what they need to enjoy full healthy lives. On the other hand, equality aims to ensure everyone gets the same things to enjoy full healthy lives." The instructor proceeded by stating that "both equity and equality aim to promote fairness and justice capitalized but can only work if everyone starts from the same place and when everyone needs the same things."

Students had to form small groups. There were three students in each group. The focus of the small group discussion was to identify the kinds of equitable practices or barriers that need to be addressed in schools. During the small group discussions, I joined one of the groups and Great. listened to them during their small group discussions. The students in that group shared ideas relating to low-income families. The students stated that "children from poor families have to meet a certain criteria before they qualified for free meals in school." They also stated that "students who come from culturally and linguistically diverse families and those students who are English language learners do face certain challenges in school and that there is the need to scaffold instruction and to differentiate instruction to meet the needs of these students."

After the small group discussion students were given the opportunity to share their ideas with the whole class. Some students stated that "not all schools have the resources to enable them to function well." Another group of students mentioned that "students are sometimes inappropriately labeled and put into special education when they do not need to be in special

Use a comma after an introductory statement.

You captured some good quotes. These provide a sense of what students discussed.

The difference between punctuation in these two sentences is that you Equity, so you would not use "that."

education. For example, students learning English as their second language are normally placed into special education because it is assumed that they have language impairments. A student did mention that "parents do not know how to advocate for their children even though the parents are the experts for their own children." Another student mentioned that for some immigrant families, they are unable to understand information sent home since the flyers sent home may be in just English and not transcribed into the home languages of the children.

The instructor played a video clip that focused on the National Equity Project. Students had the opportunity to watch a short video clip that focused on a scenario and to discuss in small groups the strategies that they would use in interrupting inequitable practices. For example, the first scenario focused on the fact that a parent made a comment regarding her child in an inclusive classroom and why her son needs to do group work with a retarded child. I observed the students during their small group discussion. One of the students stated that "the parent needs to be educated on the advantages and importance of inclusion." Another student stated that "it is important for parents to use appropriate language and terms when labeling a child. For example, instead of referring to a student as mentally retarded, it is important for parents to be informed that such students are referred to as intellectually disable." A second scenario was about a teacher talking to a student and saying to that student that the earrings the student was wearing is ghetto. One of the students suggested that he will interrupt that teacher and question the teacher especially if the student may feel uncomfortable with that statement.

The students got an opportunity to watch a third video clip. The scenario in this third video clip was about an individual who did not know what to say based on why a particular Is this a direct quote from one incident (slapping) was happening with a Mexican student. Students stated that "they will student? Only quote if it is a interrupt students and educate them on why it is not appropriate." One of the students gave an

example of a four year old boy having a conversation with a teacher about car bombs. The student stated that "parents are not aware of the fact that their child might know such information at a young age especially since children are exposed to television and other forms of media and that it is important that teachers talk to parents in such a situation.

After this discussion, students took a break for about five minutes. After the break, students got the opportunity to present to the class. To be specific, a group of students came to This sounds the front of the class and did a spotlight. The spotlight involved students preparing on a awkward. How could you say this particular topic which they had read about from a brochure and presenting the information to the smoothly? rest of the students in class. The presentation was very interactive and involved the rest of the students in the classroom answering questions that were true or false in nature. However discussions focused on the questions that were asked. There were five questions in all. For example, the discussions focused on questions on whether it is important to be aware of your cultural background and professional education and experience when shaping personal values Remember to follow APA. and role, whether cultural differences can include geographic location, religion and socioeconomic status, why it is important to build networks between childhood programs and community groups for diverse families who have children with disabilities. The students were put into small groups. There were four groups in all. The first group discussion focused on the meaning of stereotyping and whether people tended to stereotype without realizing that they are doing so. The second group discussion had to do with why is it important for educators to learn about families. The third group had to discuss what educators can do to build a relationship with families and respect their privacy. One of the students suggested the importance of home visits to families, making sure to develop trust so that families can be open to talk. Finally, but not the least, the fourth group had to come up with recommendations to help students transition and how

to incorporate many languages in class as well as the materials teachers provide to students. One of the students responded by stating that "objects can be labelled in the classroom and that teachers can use a variety of books in different languages.

continued

Following this small group discussion, the instructor went on with her Power Point presentation and asked students questions. The instructor had the questions on the Power Point slide and also provide multiple choice answers for these questions. Students had to choose the correct response. For example, the instructor wanted to know the percentage of individuals in the United States who live below the official poverty threshold. Students responded and provide the correct response to this question (15% since 1993). Another question had to do Check APA about whether to capitalize White and Black or not. with how do rates of poverty compare among white, black, Latino and Asian children. The students again provided the correct response (black and Latino children have over twice the rate of poverty compared to white and Asian children).

After the Power Point presentation, another group of students did a second spotlight.

They divided the class into five groups. Each group had a specific scenario and had questions to Where did you quote this from? Check APA, quotes of a certain length use respond to. For example, "group 1 read about a four year old student at preschool. His name is Cesar, but he barely talks in the classroom due to the fact that the primary language used in the house is not English. Cesar comes from an immigrant family, both parents are working normally from morning tonight. His eighteen year older sister is the one who takes care of him. Cesar's lack of literacy skills affects his academic performance, and even worse his parents cannot help Is this the end of the quote? him since their English is not good as well.' Students in group one had to discuss the following questions: What are some books that they would suggest to support the literacy of this student, how can parents get involved if they cannot read or write in English, and what kinds of information they would want about the student's family and culture to develop literacy. The students in each group had a different scenario but they all had to answer the same questions pertaining to the scenario that they had. These questions allowed students in each group to reflect upon the scenario and provide information based on the questions asked to help support the student they were reading about in each scenario. This was a good way for students to apply strategies that they were currently using in their own classrooms indirectly assessing students' discussion prior knowledge or experience. Students in each group had a small group discussing and then shared what they had discussed in their small groups with the rest of the students in the classroom. After this whole group discussion the class ended.

Pre- and post-observation interviews – Summary of the interview responses

Pre-Interview

On Thursday February 25th 2016, I conducted a pre-interview with Dr. Vesely, prior to observing her class. The pre-interview focused on the reason why she decided to teach ECED 504, providing a description of the students she teaches, assessing students' prior knowledge, assessing students learning, how instruction is delivered, selection of topics to discuss in class, lesson planning, how articles are selected for students to read, differentiation of instruction and whether she received any support when she begun to teaching at the university level. Please refer to the appendix for the specific questions asked during the pre and post interviews.

One of the questions focused on the instructor providing some background information about herself. Dr. Vesely is an assistant professor at the College of Education and Human Development. It was evident from the response the instructor provided that her background is in Human Development and Family Science as well as Early Childhood Education. She received her doctorate degree from the University of Maryland and her work really focuses on how individuals develop within their families and also on working with diverse low-income

Good summary of the focus.

immigrant mothers with young children and how they navigate through the child care system. She is "interesting... Most likely, she said "I am..." Only put quotations She also stated that "she is interested in family engagement which is one applied aspect of around what the person actually said. families." I asked her what made her decide to teach this particular course and she stated that at that time more emphasis was placed on families and so there was a need to teach this course. Break this into several She also noted that all her academic training was in human development and family science and sentences. as an undergraduate she wanted to be an early childhood educator because she really liked spending time with the parents of these children, and attending student conferences and so she spent time at the child development center. I also wanted to find out some information regarding the students she teaches. She stated that "most of the students in her class were masters' students who were pre-service teachers." Even though most of the students she teaches are masters' students, she also teaches undergraduate students and these students are in the Human Development and Family Science program. She noted that some of the students are assistant teachers and work in schools. In terms of ethnicity, most of the students are international See APA. students and come from Malaysia, China, Saudi Arabia, and Singapore.

One of the pre-interview questions focused on how the instructor assesses students' prior knowledge. The instructor responded and stated that **'she** assesses students' prior experiences to get a sense of the whether the students have taken a course on families, whether the students are working with families, how the students grew up and what are their life experiences." She also takes a look at their assignments to see if the students are critically reflecting on their experiences. In terms of how the instructor goes about delivering instruction, the instructor stated that **'her** instruction normally begins with a lecture, followed by a discussion and that most of the discussions take place in a large group and in small groups as well."

Remember to only quote what the person actually

During the pre-interview, the instructor mentioned that because she is a qualitative researcher most of the articles that she selects for students to read prior to class tend to be When combining two empirical but qualitative in nature. I wanted to know how she went about differentiating sentences with "and," use a comma instruction for adult learners and she mentioned that she normally works with them per APA. independently and she also encourages students to go to the writing center. She also stated that "when students work with other students during small group instruction, differentiation of instruction takes place since students are able to explain concepts amongst themselves." I also wanted to find out how she goes about preparing for class and she mentioned that she normally prepares an agenda for the students and follows that agenda during class. Finally, I was interested in find out whether she received any support as an instructor when she begun to teach at the university level. One of the comments the instructor made that I found to be interesting was that before she could teach a class she had to sit in that class for a semester in order to know the pedagogy for teaching that class and that some of the faculty members did presentations and This is a nice summary of so she went to those presentations and learned a lot from the faculty members. what you learned in the pre-observation interview.

Post-Interview

On Thursday March 3rd 2016, a post interview was conducted. During the post interview, the questions focused on what the instructor would normally do after a lesson in class, what she would do if she realizes that some of her students did not understand the lesson and finally what advice as a teacher educator would she give to a novice instructor. One of the questions focused on whether the instructor reflected on the lesson taught after the class was over. During the post-interview the instructor stated that "she could tell from the memos students wrote on their assumptions about families that the students did not really understand the concept taught well. She stated that "her reflection is ongoing and so she has to spend more time on those concepts

9

Good

that the student did not understand." The instructor stated that "some of the things that they learn are theory based. However, the nature of course requires students to be interactive in the class **Good** point and that there are students who do not like talking in whole group but do feel comfortable talking in small group since these students' perspectives are important." Finally, I wanted to find out Start a new paragraph. what advice she would give to a novice teacher as a teacher educator. The instructor stated that "it is important for a novice teacher like me to get experience in teaching adult learners at the Was she talking about herself or you? university level while I am in school now. For example, I can do internships and work with a Paraphrase rather than faculty member in co-teaching a course but it is also important that I get to teach a course all by uote if using me and I. myself before I graduate." She also suggested that it is important to do a mid-course evaluation at the middle of the semester and allow students to provide an evaluation of the teacher so the instructor can use that evaluation to improve upon her teaching. She noted that at the beginning of the semester, she creates a questionnaire for students to complete. This questionnaire provides It sounds like this information about the students. This helps the instructor know who her audience is. was a productive

Reflection and critical analysis

Your paper changes font here. Be sure the entire paper is in the It was evident that the classroom environment was well organized. As same font. mentioned earlier on, the tables in the classroom were arranged in a semi-circular form or u-shaped form. This enabled clear visibility since the instructor was able to see all the students and maintain eye contact. Darling-Hammond & Bransford (2007) noted that "teachers need to consider that different classroom arrangements help facilitate Check word count and APA to see if different kinds of teaching. In other words, the physical environment of the classroom this should be blocked. determines the role of the teacher and the students and whether the work is You need a page number for this quote. collaborative or not." To this effect, students were actively engaged in the lesson and

interview.

Good use of the text to support the point you are making here. I agree. The arrangement of the class can influence instruction.

were active participants. At some point students had to move around and form small groups. Thus, they were able to collaborate with their peers.

began

The instructor begun by reviewing a lesson on implicit biases. This lesson was a continuation of the previous lesson. It was obvious from the responses students began provided that the students understood the concept learned. The instructor begun by asking students what they already knew about implicit biases. This required students This is important. This is important. The instructor begun by Darling-Hammond & Bransford (2007), effective instructional strategies draw on students' prior knowledge as a resource in that teachers can encourage students to think about their personal experiences that they have had that are relevant to the topic being explored. Based on my observation and from the interviews that I had with the instructor, the began lesson on implicit biases begun the previous week and so the students were able to respond to the questions that the instructor asked during my classroom observation because they had been exposed to the content previously. Good connection

Yes.

During my observation, I paid close attention to the way and manner in which the lesson was presented. The instructor begun with a whole group lesson and the students had to form small groups and discuss ideas related to a specific topic. Students were then encouraged to share ideas that were discussed. Darling-Should this be blocked? Hammond & Bransford (2007) noted that "students questioning and explaining their reasoning can scaffold student learning without requiring one-on-one teacher time, and that when students are able to learn and work independently in groups, teachers can You need a page number with this use that time to assist other individuals who may need help." I must say that this was guote. among themselves, shared ideas, and supported their peers by explaining some concepts. This enabled the professor to just walk around the classroom and support those group of students who needed help. I also heard students asking their peers questions and other students providing clarification. This to me is very important in that teachers are not the only ones scaffolding instruction to meet the needs of their diverse learners and that students can also support each other. This is where Vygotsky's zone of proximal development comes into play. Vygotsky argued that Did Vygotsky say this or is it According to Darling-Hammond and Bransford (2007), Vygotsky "choosing tasks that meet students where they are stimulates cognitive development believed that..." (p. as well as learning" (Darling-Hammond & Bransford, 2007). Darling-Hammond & Bransford (2007) suggested that adult intervention can be seen as a teacher circulates around the room and that teachers can foster development by carefully watching

students to see what they can do without assistance and then supplying strategic help

to help them reach the next level of a skill. You make some excellent points about support from teachers and classmates.

It was obvious during my observation that the instructor was an expert in the classroom based on the fact that her education was mainly in human development and family science. Her knowledge about family systems and intersectionality suggest that the instructor was well prepared and had the skills to teach that class. The lesson was well organized and very structured and the concepts taught were content based on how to effectively engage diverse families. As previously mentioned the lesson focused on a discussion about implicit biases, differentiating between equity and equality and how to effectively engage families from cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Darling-Hammond & Bransford (2007) indicated that adaptive experts are able to adapt and expand in the breadth and depth of their expertise. This suggest

Good point

that an instructor who is an expert will be more than likely continue to learn throughout what? Thig and this was evident based on what I observed in the classroom because some of the students did contribute a lot during whole group discussions and the comments made by these students were very meaningful and provided insights into how to effectively work deal with diverse families. I could tell by the instructors' reaction that she also learned How could you tell? What was her reaction? a lot from the students even though she was an expert in her field. This to me is what Darling-Hammond & Bransford (2007) meant by **knowledge-centeredness**. Knowing This is a relevant connection the content and the subject matter that is being taught was guite evident during my to the text. observation. The instructor even used visual images to explain the concept of This seems like a intersectionality and I think that as students, we all learn differently and therefore for different point that the instructor to explain a concept using visual images or pictorial representations was ould be in a separate paragraph and a good way of differentiating instruction for those students who are visual learners. supported by the text. It The instructor was able to connect the content to the learners' existing seems to be related to how people learn. knowledge based on what the students already knew about the content being discussed. I mentioned earlier on that the students had already had a discussion on

what implicit biases were the previous week before my observation and so the

instructor begun the lesson by calling on students to explain and define implicit biases.

This to me is what Darling-Hammond & Bransford (2007) refer as learning-

centeredness. This means that the instructor wanted to find out what the students connection already knew, their strengths, and needs. It was obvious that the instructor wanted to find out whether the students comprehended the concept that had been taught previously. The instructor wanted students to explain the concepts in their own words and this notion of explaining concepts without necessarily memorizing information is

Excellent

what Darling-Hammond & Bransford (2007) refer to as transfer of learning. This was ^{Good point} evident because the students demonstrated that they understood the lesson.

During my observation, I realized that students felt comfortable asking questions The connection to in the classroom. It was quite obvious that the instructor also asked students communitycenteredness is not questions. This is what Darling-Hammond & Bransford (2007) refer to as communityclear. This sounds more centeredness. According to Darling-Hammond & Bransford (2007), a teacher's use of the you are making the case for questions to provide a student with an opportunity for formative assessment and assessmentcenteredness. revision suggest that this may have become established norm in the classroom. To assess students, students had to write memos about their assumptions about families. The instructor also asked questions throughout the lesson to assess student's knowledge.

To be precise, the teaching analysis assignment gave me the opportunity to observe an instructor teach adult students. Reflecting upon the interviews that I conducted and also on my observation of the classroom learning environment, I must say that I did learn a lot about teaching adult learners. In my opinion, although I have experience teaching young children, I do not have the experience of teaching students at the university level and so this was a great way for me to know what to expect when teaching adult students. During the pre-interview I learned a lot about the instructor and what motivated her to teach at the university. I learned that in teaching a university teacher education course, I need to know that the students I will be teaching may come from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and so I need to take this into consideration when planning to teach students at the university level. I also learned that students learn differently and so it is important for me as a teacher

educator to provide multiple opportunities for students to learn. Moreover, it is important to use different methods in teaching adult learners. For example, instruction Make does not necessarily have to be in a lecture format. It is important to use allow students the opportunity to discuss and share ideas not just during whole group but summarize. also in small groups. I also learned that it is important to connect what students already know to new knowledge by focusing on students' prior knowledge and experiences and relating it to new experiences. I also learned that the classroom learning environment has an impact to how learning takes place. I really liked the way the tables were arranged in the classroom. Even though I thought that it will be difficult for students to form small groups during small group discussions, the students did form small groups and moved around in the classroom and so this to me is a good strategy.

There are so many implications for future practice as a teacher educator. First of all, it is important that I assess students on a continuous basis. Using formative assessments throughout the learning process is a good way to monitor students' progress, to provide constructive feedback, and to improve my teaching to meet the needs of my students. Secondly, it implies that as a teacher educator, I need to be knowledgeable on the content or subject matter that I teach. It also implies that I need to scaffold instruction to meet the needs of the students that I teach. As noted by Vygotsky's zone of proximal development, as an instructor, who has the knowledge and skills, it is important to scaffold instruction for my adult students especially This is an important differentiating instruction to meet the needs of individual students. understanding.

connections to the text as you

APPENDIX

Pre-Interview Questions

Briefly provide some background information (education, working experience
 about yourself?

etc.) about yourself?

- What made you decide to teach this particular course?
 How would you describe the student you are teaching? "Can you..." could result is someone
- Can you describe the students that you are teaching?

Can you..." could result is someone saying "yes, I can" without any elaboration.

- How do you assess students' prior knowledge?
- How will you go about delivering instruction?

- How will you assess students learning?
- How do you determine the number of articles students have to read before class and how do you go about selecting articles and text for students to read?
- How do you go about selecting topics to discuss in class?
- How can you tell that your students are engaged in the learning process? What do you do if students are not engaged?
- How do you go about preparing for a class?
 What kind of support did you receive...

 This opens up the question.
- Did you receive any support as an instructor when you first begun to teach at

the university level?

How do you differentiate instruction for adult learners?

Post Interview questions

- How
- Do you reflect upon your instruction at the end of class?
 "Do you..." can result in a yes or no answer, so try to open up the
- question to allow for a variety of
- What do you do when you realize that students did not understand the lesson?
 responses.
- What advice will you give to a novice instructor?

References

Darling-Hammond, L., & Bransford, J. (Eds.) (2007). Preparing teachers for a changing world:

What teachers should learn and be able to do. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.

References usually come before appendices.

Teaching Analysis (20 points) Rema Sawyerr

4.9/5 Class observation and summary

- Observed one three-hour class session.
- Wrote a summary of the class observation using APA style that included the following:
 - A description of the class participants and context (e.g., who the students are, the program, the course, classroom environment, etc.)
 - Descriptions of class lectures and activities

Your description of the class observation was detailed and provided a clear picture of what occurred during the class time. Readers are able to get an excellent sense of what you saw and heard throughout the observation. See the paper for edits that are required to conform to APA style. Also, see the comment about the students in the class. It sounds like there was some confusion as to who was in this particular class compared to whom Dr. Vesely teaches in general. There are no HDFS students in this class. This is clarified when you summarize the interview. However, when reporting information collected, you need to be careful to report it accurately.

4.9/5 Pre- and post-observation interviews (5 points)

- Interviewed the instructor before and after the class session
- Wrote a summary using APA style of the interview responses
- Included the interview questions as an appendix to this assignment

It sounds like you had a very productive interview. The information you shared provided insights into what you learned from talking with Dr. Vesely. You seemed to get some useful advice in the post-interview. Please see the paper for edits that are required to conform to APA style. Pay particular attention to the comments about quoting only what the person actually said.

9.4/10 Reflection and critical analysis (10 points)

- Wrote a four- to six-page, double-spaced critical analysis using APA style
- Reflected on what they observed
- Reflected on what the instructor shared in the interviews
- Reflected on what they learned
- Reflected on the implications for their future practice as a teacher educator
- Linked their observations and reflections to course readings and class discussions

It is apparent that you reflected on the experience and thought about what you learned. You made some relevant connections to the Darling-Hammond and Bransford (2005) text. Links to other course readings are needed for additional support.

19.2/20 TOTAL