

Cassie Schroer

Educational Psychology

Dr. Pfeifer

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### **Caring Dispositions**

I feel that I am empathetic to students because I can relate to certain problems that they might have in life. For example if a student has a problem I can help them to solve the problem and find a solution. One example I would have is one time at work at Jesus Loves Me learning Center a kindergartener was feeling down one day because he did not have a good day at school. I talked him through the issue and at the end he felt a little better. I would feel this category is considered developed because I am still working on it a little here and there but overall this would be a strong category.

This would also tie into compassion, I feel I have compassion with the students because I want to help them and be there for them because they need someone they can look up to in life and someone that is there for them. This not the easiest thing because maybe you do not know their past or what they go home to at night. It should be partially the teacher's job to make sure the student is alright mentally because some students could be going through a lot and you would not even know it.

I also know that I have respect for those around me because I want to treat people in a nice kind way. I do not feel anyone should just be blatantly rude to people for no reason. If you have an issue with some go to them and discuss the issue. To be respectful you have to do the right thing even if you do not want to do it. I have learned this in the past when working with people because everyone does have different opinions in life.

For these three topics within the caring disposition I believe that I am still developing here and there because you change over time and new situations make you a new person. I do not believe it is possible to be perfect within the caring category because you have to think about yourself sometimes and not put others first this can be hard for teachers because you are always told to put your students first but when it comes to the health and well being of the teacher they need to be healthy to be able to teach effectively.

### **Communicative Dispositions**

If collaborating with others I feel that I work well with people in the group. I do enjoy to work in groups and discuss different topics. I feel I learn the best when talking with other people because I tend to be more engaged in focused. I do believe this topic is still developing because I have not had to work with other teachers yet that are on the same level of teaching as I am. I have always just been watching in on a class and talked with the teacher then to get ideas and learn new things about the room.

I do believe that I need to work on responsiveness because I might not be as attentive to other people's needs in the way that fits them best. For in some cases I do not even know how to help a person fix or solve a problem that they might be facing in life. I tend to not want to deal with other people's emotions which could be hard in a classroom because children tend to have a lot of emotions. This is something I will need to focus more time on and realize is a bigger issue because as a teacher you need to be responsive to all of your students in the best way possible. This is something I would have not thought about working on without sitting down and thinking about it.

I do believe that I am a trustworthy person because I do not go around sharing news that someone may have told me. In some cases I know it is best to not share unheard information to others because it could be private information about a person. I want people to trust me because that also makes it easier for people to talk to you and share different things. This can be hard to gain from a person and if you lose the trust it could be gone for quite some time or possibly never get it back. I think this category is highly developed because I know not to share personal information about a person or share private information.

### **Creative Dispositions**

I will be completely honest about flexibility, I do not like change and when I make a plan I hope it is able to follow through with what I want. This is hard for me because I know things are always changing or a new topic may come up in lesson. In that case I will need to act on the spot and change the lesson. This is a topic that I need to practice and work on for the future. I know that I can progress within the topic with experience because that tends to build confidence within a person. This category is developing because it still needs to be improved. I feel clinicals will help with this area because I will learn new ways to deal with things when they change or are not how I planned.

The next category under the creative disposition that I am going to discuss is inventiveness. I feel that I am inventive and come up with clever ideas for things in the classroom. One example that I have was in my Literacy clinical and I had to make an interactive bulletin board. This was not hard for me because I looked at what we would be doing in class that week and went off of that. I came up with the idea for each student to make their own paper ring with sentence about the story written on the front and then they got to place it in the pickle

jar that was on the bulletin board. Both rings and pickle jars were part of the story so the concept worked well and the students enjoyed being able to contribute to the bulletin board. I feel this category is developed because I have a good grasp on how to be inventive and come up with creative ideas. However some ideas could be used a lot and common which is why I still need a little work in this area but over time it will improve.

The final category under the creative disposition that I will discuss is resourcefulness. Resourcefulness is utilizing resources in effective ways and adapts practices to unforeseen challenges. I do not feel this is a strong area of mine because I tend to not think about using different items for examples or within a classroom that would be useful. I think it is good to use different items for students to learn because then they are more likely to remember what they learned. Relating topics to their life also works so for example if a student lives on a farm you could use examples from the farm within the lesson. I feel that I am developing within this category because I am just starting to use different objects and be more resourceful when it comes to teaching different lessons to students.

### **Critical Dispositions**

The first critical disposition category that I will discuss is reflectiveness. Reflectiveness is looked at as taking time consistently to evaluate effectiveness of instruction and behavior in terms of the larger goals of education. I feel that I put this topic off when it comes to teaching. For my Literacy clinical this past semester I would think about the lesson after I taught but I would not write anything down to remember for later. I think writing ideas or what had gone wrong even correct down to remind yourself later is a good idea. If I do not write these things down I am most likely going to forget what had happened exactly during the lesson. If I take the

couple of minutes right after the lesson this could save me a lot time later when I have to rethink about what had happened that specific day. In the category reflectiveness I am developing because yes I think about what had happened during the lesson immediately after but I need to remember to write those thoughts down so that I can remember the ideas for the next lesson that comes up.

The next category that I will discuss under the critical disposition is initiative. Initiative exhibits a willingness to pursue solutions to problems or questions; gathers relevant data and consistently seeks to improve situations or areas of need. To me this is making sure all of the students are on the right path with the lesson. You can do this by having small ungraded quizzes to see if they are retaining the material taught or if you as the teacher need to reteach a certain area because the students did not understand what was going on. I did this in a little different in my clinical by having students review what they had learned to see if they all understood what was going on and to see if I needed to reteach or go over and specific area. This is also a good thing to do before the final test to make sure all the students are understanding what is going on. In this category I feel that I am developing because there are ways that I can improve in this area.

The final area within the critical disposition category that I will discuss is open-mindedness. Open-mindedness exhibits an ability to look at different sides of an issue; recognizes the possibility of error in one's own beliefs and practices; does not display or act upon prejudices against people or ideas. I believe it is important to listen to other people's ideas or what they believe in because if you are not agreeing what they believe you need to be well rounded and know both sides. If you know both sides of what people believe you will be able to argue your beliefs in a better way. It is also important to know where the other person is coming

from and understanding why they might think what they do think. I enjoy listening to other people's ideas or beliefs because it shows that you care how they are feeling and I do believe it makes your knowledge on the topic grow. I would say that this area is developed because it is not completely all the way to the top ready but it also is not on the lower end. I work hard to listen to what other people believe.

### **Professional Dispositions**

The first category that I will talk about within the professional disposition is professionalism. Professionalism is endeavors to meet the standards expected of a teacher such as appropriateness of dress, grooming, demeanor, punctuality, work ethic, tact, discretion, courtesy, etc. I feel that I fit this category well because I am professional from the moment I walk into a school. I am respectful of all the people around me and treat their property with care. I also feel it is appropriate to dress nice when going to a school because you want to make yourself seem presentable and have high standards for yourself. I feel that I am developed in this category. The reason I do not think I am completely fully developed is because of my word choice sometimes. I do not use foul language but I sometimes catch myself using incorrect English. The English language is hard to remember in some cases such as when to use I and me. This is the area that I tend to mess up in the most. I am getting a lot better and have started to catch myself when using the incorrect form.

The next category under the professional disposition is work ethic/ responsibility. Work ethic/ responsibility means attends to school policy for teacher attendance; completes teaching-related tasks in a thorough and efficient manner. I feel for me this could be the same as going to class currently and getting my homework in on time. I do also work at Jesus Loves Me

Learning Center so this could also be considered because I have to show up for work and keep my CPR certification up to date. I do not like to miss class because then I feel that I get behind which tends to stress me out. For my Literacy clinical I made sure I was there everyday and a little earlier than I was supposed to arrive so that I could be ready for when I had to teach. It is not professional to walk in right as you are supposed to start. I feel that I am developed within this category because I do go to class and work. I feel it looks bad when you miss a lot so I try not to make that happen.

The final category within the critical disposition that I will discuss is confidentiality. Confidentiality complies with federal, state, and school policies relating to confidentiality. I believe it is important to have confidentiality in your classroom because it is not safe to have students information floating around a classroom. Confidentiality is something that could wreck a student's ego if spread in the wrong way. I deal with confidentiality at work and having to make sure not to talk about students to other people outside of the center because it could get spread to the wrong people and most things are personal and should not be shared. I feel that I am highly developed in this area because this is a big thing to think about and something not to do within a classroom and school.

For the areas that are developing I will work on these within my clinical classrooms and also when I student teach. I feel that teachers are always learning new things in the classroom. I also feel that I learn how to do a lot of things working at a pre-school/daycare center. I am able to learn a lot about classroom management and improve on my teacher skills.