

Practice Guideline on Child Development – Section 3

Pause and reflect on what you've learned about child development

Think about the child development theorists and concepts you learned about in your own education.

- Which theorists and theories formed the basis of your learning?
 - Thinking about your identity:
 - What ideas resonated with you?
 - Were there any ideas you didn't resonate with?
 - Did you feel that any of the theorists negated ideas that were important to you and your family?
- Which theories of child development inform your professional practice today?
 - Thinking about your identity, do you feel a sense of belonging in the practice setting you work in?
 - What pedagogical ideas and practices dominate your workplace? Do they align with your teaching and learning philosophy?
 - Is there anything missing that you want to contribute? What are the barriers, if any?
- Consider the child development theories you're most familiar with. Do they include any perspectives from: the new sociology of childhood; critical race; feminist; critical disability; anti-colonial; or, queer and transgender theories?
- How would reading multiple theories offer a more comprehensive view of childhood, or of children's and family's experiences? For example:
 - If you are informed only by western views of child development, who is valued and who is absent?
 - How could studying the above theories, such as critical race and anti-colonial theories, disrupt your current knowledge?

Think about what may be lost when dominant developmental theories are applied in the same way to each and every child and family. Consider some of the following ideas about children and childhood:

- Each child's unique characteristics and their differing experiences;
- The child's family, their history, circumstances, surroundings, experiences and what matters to them;
- The commonality in children's development and learning; and
- The idea that families will vary across cultures but also that families will vary within cultures.

You can add your thoughts and reflections in the space below.