

ECE 410: Discipline of Young Children
Teacher Interview
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Overview. The purpose of this assignment is to interview an early childhood teacher about their beliefs about discipline of young children.

Preparation. Identify a practicing early childhood teacher (nursery or Primary 1). Ask the teacher if you could spend about 20 minutes interviewing them about disciplining young children. Mention that you would like to audio record the interview and ensure that they are comfortable with this. Schedule a time to meet with them.

During the Interview. Ask your teacher the following questions exactly. After the teacher gives a response, you may follow up with *prompting questions* to clarify or get more information, e.g., “Can you please explain that in more detail?” or “Do you have anything else to add?” After these questions, you may ask any other questions related to discipline. Record the interview using an audio recorder.

After the Interview. First, write a *transcript* of your interview. This is a word-for-word record of the interview, just like a drama script. Write your question, followed by your teacher’s response exactly as you hear it.

Second, write an analysis of the interview. Answer these two questions: 1) What principles discussed in the course did you find in the interview? 2) What did you learn from the interview?

Interview Questions

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1. What level are you currently teaching?
2. How many children are in your class?
3. How long have you been teaching?
4. Are there any other levels you have taught?
5. What is your highest educational qualification? (e.g., NCE, BEd)
6. What course of study did you read?
 - o If this was NOT an education degree, ask if they have had any training in education.

Discipline Interview

1. What are the top three most common types of misbehaviors in your classroom?
2. Do you do anything to try to prevent misbehaviors? If so, what?
3. How do you deal with minor (small) misbehaviors?
4. How do you deal with major (serious) misbehaviors?
5. How do you feel about beating children in school?
6. What do you think are the most effective strategies for disciplining young children?
7. What challenges do you face in disciplining young children in your classroom?
8. Describe a time you recently disciplined a child in your class. What did you do?
 - o Was it effective in changing the child’s behavior? Why or why not?
 - o Do you think that was the best way of handling the misbehavior, or would you handle the situation differently next time?

Evaluation

You will be evaluated on the following:

- Transcript (3 points)
- Analysis: Connection to class principles (4 points)
- Analysis: Lessons learned (3 points)