PROFESSIONAL ETHICS: APPLYING THE NAEYC CODE

Review the situations on the pages that follow. Choose one item from Group 1 and one item from Group 2 that you wish to explore further. Write the number for the Group 1 item in the space below and for the Group 2 item on the next page. Use the NAEYC Code for guidance in figuring out what you might do if faced with each situation. (Note: Group 1 items are based on ideals and principles added to the Code during development of the 2005 version. Group 2 items are based on ideals and principles that are in both the 2005 version of the Code as well as the previous version.)

**Group 1 Situation** ___ (fill in the letter)

What core value(s) apply in this situation?

To whom do you have responsibilities?

**What guidance can you find in the Code?** List the relevant items from the Code and their letters (be sure to look in all 4 parts and at Ideals and Principles)

Based on your analysis of the guidance from the Code what do you think "the good early childhood educator" should do in this situation?

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**The Process of Resolving an Ethical Dilemma**

- Identify the problem
- Decide if it involves ethics
  - Is it a dilemma or responsibility?
  - Can it be finessed?
- Look for guidance in the NAEYC Code
  - What are the conflicting values?
  - How should they be prioritized?
- What is the most ethically defensible course of action?
PROFESSIONAL ETHICS: APPLYING THE NAEYC CODE (cont.)

Write the letter for the Group 2 item you wish to explore further in the space below. Use the NAEYC Code for guidance in figuring out what you might do if faced with each situation.

Group 2 Situation ____ (fill in the letter)

What core value(s) apply in this situation?

To whom do you have responsibilities?

What guidance can you find in the Code? List the relevant items from the Code and their numbers (be sure to look in all 4 parts and at Ideals and Principles)

Based on your analysis of the guidance from the Code what do you think "the good early childhood educator" should do in this situation?

The Process of Resolving an Ethical Dilemma

- Identify the problem
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PROFESSIONAL ETHICS: APPLYING THE NAEC CODE (cont.)

The Situations:

Group 1

A. The program you teach for is under pressure to use “standardized paper-and-pencil” tests. You’ve been told that two tests have been chosen and you’ll receive training on how to administer them. Your observation recordings will no longer be used to assess children’s progress. You’ve heard that for these tests you must remove the child from the classroom and take him to another room to test him. You’re worried that many children will find this to be stressful, and you’re also concerned about leaving your aide alone with all the other children in the group for long periods of time.

B. You’ve been teaching in a multi-cultural, multi-lingual program for many years. You speak English and Spanish and you’ve used both languages in your classroom—for conversing with children and other adults, for labeling the bookshelves, etc. You also have several Vietnamese children who do not speak English in your group. You’ve asked their parents to teach you some words in Vietnamese so that you can help children with routines and in their play—words such as “bathroom,” “outside,” “inside,” and “lunch.” Several parents whose home language is Spanish are concerned that their children will not learn English if you keep speaking Spanish in the classroom. And, the Vietnamese families do not want their children speaking Vietnamese in the classroom. They want you to have “English lessons” for the toddlers and preschoolers.

C. Your program uses a standardized test for assessing children’s progress. You’ve been given a copy of the test and told that you must drill children on these items throughout the year so that they all will do well on the test.

Group 2

D. A parent calls to express concern that her three-year-old daughter is permitted to walk the short distance to the bathroom without an adult accompanying and waiting for her. You reassure her that the security in your center is good, but she insists that her child must be individually escorted to the bathroom.

E. Families who previously had children enrolled in a nearby preschool have told you stories of what happened to their children in that center. They describe dirty sheets on the cots, harsh punishments including withholding food, and ratios of twenty children
PROFESSIONAL ETHICS: APPLYING THE NAEYC CODE (cont.)

to one adult. One day you drive by and see a lot covered with asphalt and dry grass. There are a few rusting pieces of playground equipment. Several children are standing along the chain link fence looking at the cars going by. There are no adults in sight.

F. The mother of a child in your school is a single parent. She has fallen behind on her tuition payments and is currently 2 months in arrears. She was arrested on drug charges about a month ago. Right now she is in jail trying to make bail. The child is staying with the maternal grandmother who works and brings him to the center. Several families are waiting for a space in the center. They are financially qualified and anxious for their children to be enrolled. Should the center’s policy for prompt payment of tuition be disregarded, upheld, or revised?

G. A parent in our program has deep Biblical values and believes in "sparing the rod, spoiling the child." Her child who is almost two years old has been consistently hitting other children in your group. When you shared with her other alternatives to disciplining at home visits, she responded by saying, "I only listen to my pastor."

H. A parent asks if he can bring a young sibling to a parent workshop even though there is a policy that younger siblings should not be brought to school. You have had problems with parents violating the no sibling rule but you also think this parent could benefit greatly from the content of the workshop.

Developed by Stephanie Feeney, Nancy Freeman, and Peter Pizzolongo
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