

Professional Philosophy Statement – extended outline

CDA Candidate note: Review information on the CDA Competency Standards and Functional Areas. Also consider the ages and stages of child development and developmentally informed practices. How does this factor into your ideas presented in the philosophy statement?

1. Identify your personal values and beliefs around teaching and learning:

- a. What do you believe about teaching? Why?
- b. What have you learned about effective teaching?
- c. In your own thoughts, describe what you believe are important teacher qualities.
- d. What has influenced your teaching philosophy and practices and how?
- e. Describe the type of approaches to teaching you use.
- f. As a teacher, how can you meet the needs of all learners?

2. How do you believe young children learn?

- a. In your opinion, how do children learn best?
- b. In order for children to learn and grow developmentally, what do you think they will need?
- c. What are your ideas on the environment and how environments promote learning?
 - i. In your opinion, what are specific environmental applications to promote learning?
 - ii. In your opinion, how can you offer and support a culturally responsive environment?

3. Based on how you think children learn, explain what your roles are as their teacher/caregiver.

- a. What type of opportunities do you offer to facilitate learning for all children?
 - i. How would you include diverse learners and children with special needs?
 - ii. How would you embrace diversity and culture within your classroom community and within your philosophy?
- b. Using your own ideas, provide examples of ways learning is played out in your classroom and how you show evidence of learning – how it is documented or “known” that learning occurred.
- c. In your personal opinion, define your beliefs about teacher-led activities and child-led activities. What is your role in play and learning?

4. Beyond teaching and learning, reflect and write about what you believe are the other important aspects of your role in the lives of children and families.

- a. Share how you support and communicate with families and offer opportunities for families to be involved in their child’s development.
- b. Share in your own words what your hopes and expectations are for the children and families in your program
- c. How does a family’s culture and background influence what and how you teach?
- d. In what ways do you support families?