

Exhibition

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Reflective Essay

Could being a childcare provider benefit your life forever? Today most families have both parents working which means that their children have to be watched by someone else. Therefore daycare is very important in society because this is where children grow and develop. The exhibition process has helped me learn about the important procedures involved with having a daycare through research and meeting with my mentor. My core question also allowed for me to explore the requirements to having a daycare and advantages to starting and establishing a successful daycare. My exhibition project has been a very valuable experience that has allowed for me to better understand childcare and its importance to society.

During my exhibition I was able to answer my core question and learn about the advantages and requirements to opening a daycare. There are three types of requirements and all must be achieved in order to be successful: These requirements are set forth by personality, the law, and the customers. Before starting to open a daycare, one must make sure they have certain characteristics. I was able to learn these characteristics through my interviews with Jeanine Doucet and Nancy Lalakidis. Children do not always listen therefore in order to prevent irrational behavior a childcare provider must have patience, energy, and an even-temper. In order to keep track of the children and follow the schedule a childcare provider must also have organization. This is also important for filing important paperwork. In daycare the children must be introduced to new ideas and in order to keep their attention a childcare provider must have creativity. After evaluating one's personality they must make sure their family is comfortable with their plans. Parents also have their own expectations of a childcare facility.

Comment [s1]: The punctuation should appear like this: "...listen; therefore, ...".

According to the Department of Early Education and Care's article, Choosing Childcare Services, a parent should visit the daycare to ensure that it is safe and allows for children to have fun and learn. Most parents look for daycares that have an EEC license, because this assures them that the daycare follows all of the laws regarding childcare facilities. This leads to the requirements set forth by the state. According to the Department of Early Education and Care's article, Regulations, a provider must have a degree in early childcare and 12 months of full time experience. They must also have a safe environment, an age appropriate curriculum for the children, and home visits by an inspector.

Without my **mentor** I probably would not have found the reliable sources that she gave me. My mentor provided me with two books that described the process of starting a daycare and how to make an age appropriate curriculum. My mentor also read through my work to make sure that all of the information that I present is accurate. If my research contradicted her knowledge of **childcare** then we would look over the source to determine whether it was unreliable or I misinterpreted it. She also shared her experiences of having a daycare for twelve years and gave me insight on some of the advantages and disadvantages as well as the requirements. Therefore if I did not have a **mentor** my research would be fragmentary and possibly unreliable.

Fortunately I did not have many problems because my mentor was able to help me. A problem that I did run into was having many assignments due on the same day. I was able to overcome this and not be stressed out by planning a schedule. During the three days before my projects were due, I would work on each for about an hour. Then on the night before I had to present each project, I could focus solely on memorizing the presentation and not on starting the project. **Another** problem that I ran into was when my brother had to go to the hospital when I was scheduled to meet with my mentor. Since my mother had to bring him to the hospital I had to watch the rest of my siblings and was unable to visit her. The next day my mom and brother came home but my mentor was busy and could not see me that day. The only day that she was able to see me

Comment [s2]: At some point in this paragraph, you need to identify your mentor.

Comment [s3]: When you have an if...then statement, a comma should always separate the two clauses. For example, "If you use an if/then statement, then you must place a comma between the clauses."

Comment [s4]: Comma as indicated above.

Comment [s5]: New paragraph.

before the hours were due was the only day that my mom could not give me a ride. I got in touch with my older brother and he was available to give me a ride to meet with my mentor. I did not have many problems during my exhibition process and was able to fix the ones that I did have.

During my exhibition process I have learned much about the process of opening and sustaining a daycare. At the beginning of this project I did not know that there were strict laws regulating childcare facilities. Now that I have researched the laws, the process of starting a daycare seems to be much more complicated. For example I did not know that you needed to have a carbon monoxide detector on each level of the facility and in every room adjacent to a garage. I also did not know that a childcare provider needs to continually take courses that will improve the daycare. I have also realized that there are personal requirements as well: Not every person can be a childcare provider because a provider must possess certain characteristics. For example a provider must have patience because children do not always listen and a provider is responsible for watching children that are not their own. I also discovered that a provider must meet the expectations of the parents in order to have a successful daycare. This is because if the parents are not satisfied with the daycare then there will be no children attending it. Therefore the provider will not make a profit. Before beginning my exhibition, I was unaware of the determination and hard work needed to have a successful daycare.

My mentor, Rosemarie, has helped me to gain the knowledge necessary in order to fully understand the process of opening a daycare. She gave me various books that discussed the process of opening a daycare in addition to websites to further my research. Rosemarie also gave me a binder that she made when she had her daycare. This allowed for me to see how her daycare was set up and what it takes to have a successful daycare. Whenever I met with my mentor she would give me constructive criticism on how to improve my project. She did so by reviewing my journals, annotated sources, pamphlet, and PowerPoint. This helped me to answer my core question because Rosemarie would let me know when the information appeared to be inaccurate or if what I wrote

Comment [s6]: New paragraph.

was confusing. By working with Rosemarie I have learned that everyone has valuable information to give about his or her experiences, whether it is daycare or something else. I have also realized that having a mentor is an excellent way to learn something new. This is because they already have experienced what you are just beginning to discover and can share the mistakes they made in order to prevent you from making the same ones. Rosemarie also gave me insight on the advantages to having her daycare and what she did to make it successful. Nancy Lalakidis and Jeanine Doucet also helped me with my exhibition. Nancy allowed for me to interview her and gain a better understanding of the environment of a daycare. For example she explained to me the personal requirements that she believed were necessary in order to watch the children. Jeanine Doucet also helped me understand the process of opening a daycare by discussing with me the attitude that she portrays toward the children in her daycare as well as the everyday activities. The interviews allowed for me to answer my core question because I had firsthand information about daycare and not just information from a book.

Comment [s7]: New paragraph.

Comment [s8]: New paragraph.

In my project I was able to achieve all of the Applied Learning Proficiencies. In order to complete my project I had to solve problems. For example when my mother was unable to drive me to my meeting with my mentor I had to find another ride. Also my teachers all assigned projects that were due on the same day. I was able to solve this problem by making a schedule in which there was enough time to complete each assignment without it being stressful. During the exhibition process I also had to

Comment [s9]: Comma

Comment [s10]: To be continued????

My project has also allowed for me to think critically. I had to research information and make sure that the source is reliable. In order to do this I compared the information from each source with each other. My mentor was also able to help me determine if information was not accurate. Also I will be reading a lot of information and I have to decide whether or not to use it. This is because I will be looking through information on various aspects of daycare but I must only include the research that pertains to my core question.

Comment [s11]: You've already read the information, so why is the wording in the future tense?

I also had to research my information for my exhibition. I used books and periodicals because my mentor gave me two books that she used when she had her daycare. These two books described the process of opening a daycare and how to make an age appropriate curriculum. I also used internet resources because I had access to websites during exhibition class and at my house. My mentor gave me the Department of Early Education and Care's website and I was therefore able to use two of their articles. These described the legal requirements of having a daycare and what parents should look for when they are choosing a daycare for their children. I also interviewed two people, Jeanine Doucet and Nancy Lalakidis. They were able to give me information about daycare from their personal experiences. This was because Nancy worked at a daycare and Jeanine has her own.

In order to answer my core question and get help I would e-mail or call my aunt, stepmother, or mentor. My aunt used to work at a childcare facility therefore she knows what is required by employees who work at day cares. My stepmother is starting a home daycare and knows all of the regulations regarding day cares. My mentor had her own day care therefore she had the experience needed to answer all of the questions I had about the advantages, regulations, and problems that arise while owning a day care.

I reflected upon all of the information that I researched and made sure that it pertained to my core question. I also reflected upon the information that was useful to my core question. I was also able to reflect upon whether or not I still wanted to open a daycare once I gained more knowledge about it. I evaluated myself by making sure that the information that I used in my exhibition related directly to my core question. I also evaluated myself on how much more I learned about child care facilities.

My content standard was **Business Plans IX: Achievement Standard- develop a business plan.** My exhibition project addressed my content standard because in order to create a business you must research the advantages, disadvantages, and requirements. My pamphlet demonstrates this

Comment [s12]: Don't forget to include your pamphlet as a form of communication, since that is its main purpose.

Comment [s13]: Put this in quotes.

because I am teaching others how to make a business plan for daycare and in order to teach others you must first be able to fully understand it yourself.

. My research has allowed for me to gain a new understanding of the importance of daycare.

Most children nowadays are in daycare and develop the habits that they will use as adults.

Therefore it is important for a daycare to achieve all of the requirements to not only have a

successful daycare but to teach the future generations. These requirements may be strict but if you

have determination then it will not be hard to achieve them. It is also worthwhile to have a daycare

because you can use what you learn forever. This is because you can use the techniques and

activities in your daycare with your own children someday. My exhibition project has been a

learning process in which I was able to discover the answer to my core question.

Comment [s14]: Insert a comma in the appropriate place according to earlier directions.

Comment [s15]: This seems like a blah way to end the essay. Indicate how you may use this information in the future.