

## *Our Influence on Children*

Children are influenced greatly by their environments. It is an adult's responsibility to create positive environments for children. As learned from the experiment by Robert Bandura, children model our behavior, for good or bad. It is important that we model that which will influence children for good. We should also be aware of what media content we are exposing children to.

## *Positive Discipline*

Discipline strategies must be intentional and respectful to children. No harm should ever be done to children, physically, emotionally, or socially. Teaching intrinsic motivation should be the ultimate goal for discipline.

## *The Importance of Play*

Play is an essential part to children's development. Play promotes learning in all domains and must not be neglected.

## *Developmentally Appropriate Practice*

Activities for children must be age appropriate. Often, expectations are set that are not developmentally appropriate for a child's age. It is essential to plan activities for children that are interesting and applicable to their age.

## *ZPD and Scaffolding*

Scaffolding children as they learn is an important role of a caregiver. Helping children grow within the Zone of Proximal Development helps children to reach new milestones in a more tangible and comfortable way.

## *Unmet Needs*

Misbehavior is often a result of a child's unmet need. We should strive to better empathize with children to understand why they behave the way they do. When we do that, we will more effectively be able to help and nurture children.

## *Children of God*

Children are one of God's greatest creations, and we must care for and love them as He would. As Elder Neil L. Andersen said, "God cherishes life" and "As disciples of Jesus Christ, we cherish life."