**OPTION C: CHILD CARE**

If you were considering leaving your three year-old child in a child care facility (family day care or child care center), what would be your major concerns?  Why?  Would your concerns be different, if your child were an infant?  Explain.  Would you prefer an academic or a child-centered preschool for your child?  Why?

If I were considering to leave my three year-old in a child care facility, my major concern would be the curriculum. Other concerns I would have would be the quality of care, the teacher to student ratio, and also the cleanliness of the facility. My major concern about the curriculum is because I would want my child to learn. Obviously I have them in a child care facility because I am not able to care for them myself and teach them the things they are supposed to know, so I would want an effective curriculum being taught. Cognitive development is important to me. I would want my child to know colors, shapes, objects, numbers, and counting. Social development is also important too. Social skills are necessary before starting kindergarten, I would expect them to teach them how to share and work together with taking turns, and learn how to follow directions and communicate. I know relying solely on the child care facility but it will be a help.

If my child were an infant, my concerns wouldn’t be different. Obviously the curriculum structure would be different for an infant but I would still want the best care for my infant as I would my toddler. The development of an infant is just as important as the development of a toddler. In the text, “Each infant needs personal responsiveness. Someone should serve as a partner in the synchrony duet, a base for secure attachment, and a social reference who encourages exploration. Then infant emotions and experiences, cries, and laughter, fears and joys will ensure that psychosocial development goes well.” (Berger, 2014, pg. 158) I wouldn’t want a facility with high turnover either. It is important that my infant’s care is consistent and the caregiver builds a trusting relationship with my infant. This person is my replacement so its important that the caregiver in the facility knows how to care for infants. According to the text, “no matter what form of care is chosen or what theory is endorsed, individualized care with stable caregivers seems best (Morrissey, 2009). Caregiver change is especially problematic for infants because each simple gesture or sound that a baby makes not only merits an encouraging response but also requires interpretation by someone who knows that particular baby well.” (Berger, 2014, pg. 157)

I would prefer a child centered preschool for my child. There is no real evidence that an academic based preschool is better in the long run for children. Personally, I don’t think a child at the age is ready for that type of learning. I think children learn through playing. I feel if too much academic on a child so young, they may lose interest or maybe might not be able to comprehend what is going on. I think a child based preschool is where they develop social skills and teachers can incorporate different skills that are academic based. I also want my child to be just that a child. The older they get, the more they will be learning. I feel like it’s too much pressure on them at such a young age to be in an academic based facility.

References

Berger, K. S. (2014). *Invitation to the life span* (3rd ed.). New York, NY: Worth Publishers.