

Global Citizenship & Equity (GC&E) Reflection Assignment

Frishta Nazari

Child and Youth Care Program (CYCP 112)

Instructor: Paola Ostinelli

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Abstract

This reflection explores my personal growth and learning as a Child and Youth Care Practitioner (CYCP) throughout my first semester. I examine how my beliefs, values, and behaviors shape my professional interactions, the importance of diversity and inclusivity in my work, and how I apply GC&E principles when supporting children, youth, and families. My unique abilities, including my strong interpersonal skills, multilingual background, and cultural awareness, help me establish trust and create a sense of belonging for the individuals I work with.

Introduction

Global Citizenship and Equity (GC&E) are essential principles in the field of Child and Youth Care (CYC). As a practitioner, it is important to be aware of personal values, beliefs, and behaviors that influence interactions with children, youth, and families. This reflection examines my learning journey, the impact of my cultural background and skills, and how these aspects contribute to my ability to foster inclusivity and equity within diverse environments.

Personal Beliefs, Values, and Behaviors as a CYCP

Throughout this semester, I have developed a stronger sense of self-awareness regarding my role as a CYCP. My core beliefs include compassion, inclusivity, and advocacy for young people, ensuring they feel heard and valued. I recognize that every child comes from a unique background, and my role is to provide a safe, supportive, and culturally responsive space for them.

One of my greatest strengths is my ability to connect with children easily through icebreakers and interactive communication. My warm smile, friendly nature, and natural love for kids help me build instant rapport and trust with young individuals. Additionally, I am fluent in five languages, including [list languages], which allows me to better understand the cultural backgrounds of the youth I support. This skill helps me bridge language gaps, provide comfort, and create a sense of belonging for children and families from diverse backgrounds.

Example: Recently, during a class discussion, I reflected on how my ability to speak multiple languages helped me engage with a newcomer child who was struggling with English.

By communicating in their native language, I was able to make them feel understood and included, reinforcing the importance of cultural awareness in CYC practice.



How These Beliefs Inform My Interactions with Others

Understanding my values and behaviors has greatly influenced how I interact with children, families, and colleagues. My focus on equity and inclusivity ensures that every child I work with feels respected and valued, regardless of their background.

I actively practice empathetic listening, ensuring that children feel safe expressing their thoughts and emotions. Additionally, my familiarity with Asian, Middle Eastern, and Western cultures allows me to adapt my approach to meet the needs of diverse groups, fostering trust and positive engagement.

Example: In a classroom role-play exercise, I applied my cultural knowledge to de-escalate a scenario where a child was feeling isolated due to their background. By

acknowledging their struggles and validating their experiences, I helped create a supportive and inclusive environment.



Applying Knowledge in Diverse Settings

As a CYCP, I will work with children from various ethnic, linguistic, and social backgrounds. My ability to recognize and address systemic barriers enables me to provide equitable support to children and families.

Strategies I Implement:

- **Building Trust:** Using my multilingual skills to communicate with youth and parents who may struggle with English.
- **Cultural Sensitivity:** Understanding different parenting styles, traditions, and customs to tailor my approach accordingly.

- **Inclusive Activities:** Designing icebreaker games and group discussions that accommodate diverse experiences and perspectives.

By integrating these strategies, I ensure that young individuals feel **valued and empowered**, regardless of their cultural or socioeconomic background.

Connection to GC&E Learning Outcome

GC&E principles emphasize the importance of social equity, cultural competency, and global awareness in CYC practice. Throughout this course, I have deepened my understanding of systemic inequalities and the role of CYCPs in advocating for marginalized youth.

Example: Learning about the barriers newcomer children face in Canadian schools has reinforced my commitment to creating inclusive spaces where every child feels welcome. I now recognize that as a CYCP, my role extends beyond daily interactions—I am also responsible for challenging biases, advocating for fair treatment, and promoting diversity within my professional setting.

Conclusion

Reflecting on my growth as a CYCP has allowed me to recognize my strengths and areas for development. My ability to connect with children through warmth, multilingual communication, and cultural understanding positions me as an effective and inclusive practitioner. By applying GC&E principles, I will continue to promote equity, respect, and belonging for all children and youth. As I progress in my career, I am committed to lifelong learning, self-reflection, and continuous improvement, ensuring that I remain a strong advocate for the young people I serve.

References

Welcome to ACYCP, the Association for Child & Youth Care Practice, Inc.

<https://www.acycp.org>

Centennial College My Login. (n.d.). <https://www-sciencedirect-com.centennial.idm.oclc.org/science/article/pii/S0363811117302114>

