Areli Jimenez

FHS 1500

Observation #1

Toddler- 18 months to 2 years

I observed a 2 year old girl in the Redwood Campus Lab School on February 13, 2015 at 3:00pm.When I came in the classroom the children were playing with a tunnel. It looked like they had just finished doing art and this seemed to be a transition while they were waiting to go outside. They were each taking turns to go in and through the tunnel. As I observed Olivia I noticed that she was smaller than any other children in the class. Her weight was pretty average, meaning she did not seem overweight or skinny. I notice that she sat next to other children waiting very patiently for her turn. Compare to the other children in the class this seemed very mature.

Finally it was time to go outside, and Olivia went to get her coat. She did as she was told and when she could not put it on she asked one of her caregivers to help her. I then noticed that her vocabulary was very extensive. She was using 5-8 word sentences, which is more than any other child in her class. She would express her needs, and wants, and she answer questions when asked.

When the children were outside Olivia immediately went straight for the balance beam. She was able to balance by using her arms as a tool to keep her steady. She also ran without tripping and jumped more than 3 times with both feet together. Olivia gross motor skills are well developed and she performs them with accuracy compared to other children in her class.

After being outside for a little while the caregiver brought the bubbles. Olivia immediately went and started popping them. As she was popping the bubbles she was counting. She did not count more than five, but it was more than other children were doing during this activity. This shows that she is able to connect a number with an object, therefore, demonstrating her advanced cognitive development compared to the other children in the class.

Olivia’s social and emotional development was well beyond what I had expected from a child her age. While other children were mainly playing by themselves, Olivia played with another girl on the slide racing and helping each other up the slide. They played well together taking turns on the teeter tooter without an adult helping them to take turns. Also, there was an instance where she was riding a car, got stuck on the curb, tried to move it, but couldn’t. She started showing her frustration but instead of crying or getting angry she immediately asked a caregiver for help. This showed me that she is able to manage her temper and is easily soothed when her problems are solved. Overall, Olivia is a happy child she is able to communicate her needs and wants with adults, as well as with children. She is very connected to whoever she knows and associates with. Olivia is a very smart girl and she was able to show it during this observation. I was glad that I was there to record part of her development.