#2 Human Development and Learning

The teacher understands how individuals grow, develop, and learn. The teacher provides learning opportunities that support the intellectual, social, and personal development of all students.

As a teacher, I must understand how my students acquire knowledge and develop emotionally, socially, and physically. I must know all these factors in order to provide my students with the best and most appropriate learning circumstances.

To demonstrate my mastery of #2 Human Development and Learning, I chose a child observation project that I did in a child psychology course. I observed a two year old boy and discussed what stages he is going through according to Erikson and Piaget. I found that he is in the stage of autonomy vs. shame and also is showing clear signs of egocentrism. I was trying to see what stage a two year old is in and what are some of the distinct characteristics that he may display. I found that by recognizing the stage that this little boy was in, I could also be aware that he will be moving on to other stages as he develops and I must be aware of this. By realizing that children move through stages as they grow, I will be able to see this in my own students and help them to learn appropriately.
#9 Collaboration: The competent teacher understands the role of the community in education and develops and maintains collaborative relationships with colleagues, parents/guardians, and the community to support student learning and well-being.

As a teacher, I need to be aware of the importance of working together with parents, students and other teachers to create a community in my classroom. In order for parents, students and other teachers to feel comfortable in my classroom, I need to involve them as active participants in the classroom. This can be done through open houses, parent volunteers, community helpers and so on.

To demonstrate my knowledge of ICPTS #9 (Collaborative Relationships), I have included a science lesson on earthquakes, which I team-taught during my Block II experience. The lesson was an inquiry based lesson plan, which got the students actively involved in building structures and examining ground types and their impact on the effect of an earthquake. The other teacher and I split the activity into parts. I took the first section, the power point and the prediction. She took the second section, the actual experiment and the conclusion. We worked together to develop our concept, how we were going to teach it and to write the lesson plan and develop the power point. During the lesson, we worked well with both the students and each other. By doing this activity together, we were able to pull both of our experiences and our knowledge into the classroom, hence better promoting the students learning.