

EDUC& 115

Mid-quarter Paper

Due Wednesday February 26<sup>th</sup> (45 points)

*No late papers, early papers are welcome!*

Choose two (2) age groups to discuss what represents your present understanding of the theories of Erikson and Piaget and their application to teaching. Include key concepts of the theorists with examples that demonstrate your knowledge. The objectives of this assignment are: to demonstrate your knowledge of the theorists and their application to teaching, to document your understanding of children's learning, and to identify teaching strategies that represent developmental knowledge of how children learn. Please read the article, *Knowing is Not Understanding*, by David Elkind. This gives a developmental perspective that is consistent with Erikson and Piaget and can be helpful as background for your own thinking.

*Please word process or write with ink, no pencil please!*

Choose two (2) of the following ages: 1-2-1/2 years, 2-1/2-5 years, 6-8 years

1. Explain why teaching in the ages you have chosen relates to teaching children "how to learn" rather than "what to learn".
  - How do teachers teach children "how to learn" that reflects how children learn developmentally?
  - What does a teacher need to know about the children?
  - How does the teacher facilitate discovery rather than be a dispenser of knowledge? How does the environment and the teacher and his or her strategies effect a child's sense of self as an individual and the child's sense of self as a thinker?
  
2. Describe how your understanding addressed in #1 will influence your present or future work with children.
  - What practices would strengthen your own abilities as a teacher and why?
  - What areas provide challenges for you as a teacher and why?
  - What do you plan to specifically address in your own present or future work with children to incorporate the theories of Erikson and Piaget? Why?

**3. Please reflect on the handout about the comparison between Piagetian and Vygotskian frameworks.**

- How are the theorists similar?
- How are they different?
  
- As a potential future teacher, what is meaningful to you regarding Piaget's strategies about how children learn? What is important to you that influences how children of varying ages think?
  
- As a potential future teaching, what is meaningful about Vygotsky's strategies in children's learning? What are some of the key areas that you would like to focus on in the future?

**4. We will address more content and strategies related to Vygotsky in the next few weeks, please consider in the context of the work we have done to date,**