Case Study Introduction

I am conducting my case study on Bryce, a 2 ½ year old Caucasian boy that attends Blessed Beginnings daycare in North Manchester, IN. Bryce will turn three years old on August 2, 2007. Bryce’s parents are John (29 years old), a shop foreman at a welding facility in Laketon, and Carrie (29 years old), a clerk treasurer for North Manchester, and they have been married 7 years. His parents were married five years before they had their only child Bryce. According to Carrie, Bryce is the center of their world and his grandparents because he has no cousins (C. Mugford, personal communication, February 20, 2007). It will be interesting to see how this has impacted Bryce’s development. Before July 2006, the family used to live in the country and now they live in North Manchester on Damron Drive. Bryce has two inside dogs: a beagle, Charlie, and a bull dog, Hank, who are his best friends. Bryce is very social and loves to talk on the telephone. He likes mint ice cream, Bob the Builder, and anything with wheels such as trucks, trains, and cars. Bryce’s favorite restaurant is Dairy Queen and his favorite food is shrimp with cocktail sauce. Bryce doesn’t like to be told no or disciplined.

Bryce’s Physical Development

According to an interview with Bryce’s mother, she had a completely normal pregnancy. Bryce was born vaginally with no complications. When he was born he weighed 8 lbs 1 oz, but he did have a little trouble putting on weight for awhile and has made up for that now. He began crawling well at 9 months and walking right at his first birthday. Bryce has been right on target with his development, hitting each stage as expected (Mugford, 2007).

Today Bryce is of average height and weight, weighing in at thirty-two pounds. According to Feldman (2007), children average a height of three feet by their second birthday. Bryce’s mother mentioned that he has the potential to be tall because his father is six foot and 3
inches and his grandfather is six foot 5 inches (Mugford, 2007). Bryce is capable of walking and running, only in a forward motion. According to Feldman, Bryce’s motor skills are developmentally appropriate since he can jump in place. According to his caregiver, Bryce can throw a ball really well (M. Hudson, personal communication, March 1, 2007). Bryce can string caps and beads. He is able to put a wooden puzzle together. Bryce is able to hold a pair of scissors correctly in his right hand and can make cuts on a piece of paper. Bryce’s fine motor skills are developing normally because he is able to use this thumb and index finger to hold a marker, which Feldman refers to as the “pincer grasp” (Feldman, 2007, p. 131). However, Bryce still scribbles when he draws and cannot copy circles, which Feldman states children should be able to do at 33 months of age.

**Bryce’s Cognitive Development**

According to Feldman (2007), cognitive development is the way that growth and change in intellectual capabilities influence a child’s behavior. Bryce’s cognitive development has been normal for his age so far and he did not have any prenatal complications. He began talking around 11 months and his first word was bye-bye (Mugford, 2007). According to his mother, Bryce began to pick up new words quickly and said dada and papa soon afterwards, but not mama for awhile. Feldman says children usually speak their first word between the ages of ten months and fourteen months.

According to Feldman, Bryce is close to the end of Piaget’s sensorimotor stage. This means that he understands object permanence and his language development is rapidly growing. Bryce is able to use words to express his wants. For example, at lunch time I observed Bryce asking for more salad with red dressing. Bryce is able to speak in short sentences and ask questions. He is able to ask me when I am leaving and when I am coming back. Bryce is able to
tell you what he is doing and will ask what you are doing because he is curious. Bryce enjoys having a book on tractors read to him and will say the different color of the tractors and which one he likes the best. Bryce has no difficulty answering yes or no questions. Bryce is in Substage 6: Beginnings of thoughts because he participates in pretend play. I observed Bryce and Harrison (his bestfriend) pretending to drive a car around the play area.

Bryce’s attention span tends to differ depending upon the difficulty of the activity. For example, he will let you read a whole book to him because he enjoys reading and interacting with books. However, he loses interest quickly when his caregiver asks him to walk in a straight line putting one foot in front of the other because he cannot easily perform this task.

**Bryce’s Emotional/ Social Development**

When Bryce’s mother was pregnant, she talked to him all the time. She would narrate how her life was going and what his life was going to be like. She had music on a lot while she was pregnant and she still does. According to Carrie, she talked to Bryce a lot while she was nursing him. She stated that he would lie so close when he ate and they would bond (Mugford, 2007).

So far Bryce has had a very normal emotional development. Bryce’s temperament when he was little was very somber. He would study things before he would give a reaction to them. According to Carrie, he would watch a new song or activity a couple of times before he would let his parents know if he approved (Mugford, 2007). Bryce is very sociable, and he likes almost everyone. On the very first day of my observations, Bryce asked me my name before I even had time to take my jacket off. At the daycare, Bryce experienced a short period of separation anxiety from this mother. Bryce talks so well that he can easily verbalize what he is feeling to his
caretakers. However, Bryce did have some frustration figuring out how to tell his parents when he was upset, but they talked it out and he can explain what he is feeling now (Mugford, 2007).

According to the developmental checklist, Bryce should watch other children play. Bryce engages in onlooker play. He likes to watch what is going on, and is a little bit of a follower. However, Bryce is mainly engaged in parallel play with Harrison, his best friend. Feldman states that during parallel play children will play with similar toys, but do not interact with each other. Bryce will assert himself if he wants to do something and he is really into sports right now. He likes watching sports, not on TV but live. Bryce’s parents take him to high school baseball games, softball practice, and his father’s basketball games.

**Reflection**

As I look back at my time at Blessed Beginnings, I am thankful for the learning opportunities I gained through my interactions with the children and the caregivers. I had the opportunity to observe children ranging in age from six months to three years old. I normally do not have the opportunity to interact with infants so I enjoyed holding them. I loved being able to experience things through the eyes of a young child. The infants were constantly observing the world around them except for when they were sleeping. Sometimes I was able to observe the toddlers while they were in class. On Friday before Saint Patrick’s Day, the students made five shamrock puppets and recited the poem “Five Green Shamrocks”. One of the caregivers gave me the website which is [www.dtk-holidays.com](http://www.dtk-holidays.com) which has holiday activities with a variety of printables. As a future teacher, this website will be a great resource. I really like the printable calendars.

While I was observing I saw that the caregivers had to complete daily information sheets on every student to keep the parents informed about what their child did. For example, the sheet
included a spot to say what the toddlers worked on in class. This is a great way to keep open communication among the parents and caregivers. Depending on what grade I teach I might be able to implement a similar system into my classroom. I think that communication with parents is essential when teaching children.

However, of all the children that I interacted with at Blessed Beginnings, Bryce was unforgettable. On my very first day, he was asking me my name before I even took my coat off. Bryce was always ready to give out hugs and smiles which made my day. During the short time that I got to spend with Bryce, he has made a significant impact on my life.

References
