Activity 3: Contemporary Issues

The purpose of this activity is to explore some of the contemporary issues in child development. It also intended for you to begin thinking about what kind of sources you are getting your information from so as to become a critical consumer.

Contemporary Issues

The following is a list of some contemporary issues in child development:

- Impacts of COVID and a specific topic
    - Some examples: developmental domains, family life, parents' work/income, childcare, peer relationships, education / remote learning, etc.)
- Immigration / family separation at the border / Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and DREAM Act (DREAMers)
- Screen time
- Racism and equity
- Representation in media
- School choice / vouchers / charter schools vs. public schools
- "Sharenting" (parents sharing updates about children on social media)
- Universal childcare / affordable preschool
- Teaching consent

Instructions

1. Choose one of the contemporary issues listed above, or you can choose something else as long as it's a current issue. Google the topic. (I suggest starting with "[topic] and child development" then going from there.)
    a. Read articles, watch videos, or listen to podcasts about the topic from **at least three different credible sources** (see page 3 for information about what is considered a credible source). **You must have at least two different kinds of media**. For example, you could do two readings and one video; or you could do one reading, one video, and one podcast.

2. Summarize in a video (1-2 minutes) what you learned about the contemporary issue, addressing each of the questions on page 3.
    a. You can present this information any way you want. It can be in a more professional style, simply summarizing your topic. Or, you can do something fun/informal, such as in the style of a TikTok. It's up to you how you think is the best way to present the information.
    b. Keep the content in your video about the information you learned **not** your opinion or feelings about it.
    c. Keep your video within the suggested time range. A little over/under is okay, but if you're doubling or tripling the time, then it is a problem.
    d. Remember to introduce yourself and the topic!

3. Using GoReact, post your video. Then, reply to **at least two** peers, each with a **different** contemporary issue from your own and one another. Comment meaningfully on the information they shared. You can share your thoughts or opinions here or ask questions.
    a. For example, if you chose racism and equity as your topic, you could watch Peer 1's video about the impacts of COVID and Peer 2's video about teaching consent.
        i. In this example, each of your peers' videos are on a different topic from yours **as well as** a different topic from one another.

A few notes on this presentation…

- For this assignment, your main goal is to be informative. The world is changing and how people consume information varies. Social media platforms like Instagram and TikTok *can* be just as informational as more traditional media. That is why I am allowing you the option to do something more informal.

- Keep in mind that for other presentations – whether it's in this class or others, or even in a workplace setting – you may need to be more professional. (For example, I don't add bitmojis into my slides when I present at research conferences.) Professionalism is about knowing ***what*** is appropriate as much as it is about knowing ***when*** it is appropriate.

- Regardless of how you choose to present your information, you should keep in mind these tips:
    - Pay attention to your ums and uhs. Start getting into the habit of pausing instead of saying "um" or "uh" when you're thinking of what to say. This makes you sound more professional!

    - It's okay if you have a couple of minor misspeaks (my example video has some!). The goal is to be natural ***and*** professional, not perfect.

    - You might have to do multiple takes.

    - You can choose whether you want to sit or stand when you record, whichever is more comfortable for you. However, **the camera should be looking straight at you and you looking straight at the camera** (i.e., center yourself in the frame as best you can so your head is in the middle and your eyes are looking directly into the camera).

What is considered a credible source?

<u>For this specific assignment</u>, a credible source includes government websites, news sites, research articles, professional organizations, TED talks, and podcasts. Here are some examples: BBC, CNN, UNICEF, Center for Disease Control (CDC), NPR, NAEYC, The Center for the Developing Child (Harvard University).

Sources that do not count as credible include blogs, forums, social media posts, opinion editorials (even if they are in a newspaper), YouTube videos from non-experts, etc.

(We will talk later about credible sources in regard to doing more formal research.)

Wikipedia is a gray area. While you should not use it for one of your credible sources in this assignment, it may be helpful to read a Wikipedia entry to get a basic understand of a topic and/or define relevant terms/concepts that you are unfamiliar with. You might also find useful links to credible sources referenced in a Wikipedia entry.

Questions

1. List your source type, the title, and the links. For example:
    a. Reading: "No game days. No bars. The pandemic is forcing some men to realize they need deeper friendships." (https://www.washingtonpost.com/road-to-recovery/2020/11/30/male-bonding-covid/)

2. Summarize what you read, watched, and/or listened to **<u>in your own words without any quotes</u>** by answering the following questions:
    a. What is the issue?
    b. Why is it an issue?
    c. How long has it been an issue?

3. What ages of children does this issue affect and how? In other words, what are the concerns for this age group?

4. How does this issue affect families/parents?

5. How does this issue affect society?

6. What are potential solutions or suggested ways to address the issue?

7. Why did you pick the topic?

8. What did you learn about the topic? In other words, what was new to your understanding of contemporary issues?