Kayleen Malizzi

SPE 240

12/5/2014

Parent/ Child Observation

I first went to the grocery store (as suggested) and of course I knew there was going to be at least one family with a child throwing a tantrum because they want a toy, candy bar, etc., just as the parent is trying to leave or is wanting to continue shopping elsewhere in the store. I wanted to take a step further to research how a family would handle a special needs child in a store with a positive outcome instead a negative. I found on YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s5zjmKzc1Kc>, A child with Autism and his parents made the choice of bringing him along to the store besides their thoughts of the challenges they might encounter.

In the video, the family is out shopping for food at a local grocery store. They are all walking together at all times, with dad helping the boy push the grocery cart. I noticed right away that the family had attached a hanger of different necklaces and chains, etc. to the handle of the cart. They explained that children with autism need some sort of sensory items to keep occupied because their attention spans are so short. They also explained that while in the grocery store it works well to have the sensory hanger to keep the child occupied if they groceries don’t appear right away to you and you need the extra time to search.

The family did a really great job at including the child in on helping shop for groceries. They let him grab the items off the shelves. To have the child follow through with these actions the parents used small talk so the child was able to understand. Statements like, “Pick up.” “Here.” “Put in.” “Got it?” were just a few that were used in this video. After the child followed through with the actions, he was immediately praised with a high five, with a statement of, “Good Job!” “Hey, that was great!”

In our textbooks it explained that as a special needs teacher, or in this case a parent, we have to make directions simple and present the child with one task at a time and once we see that the child has mastered the task we then can move on to the next. Also, it says that we should reward students for their successful completion of a task, as did the parents in the video.

As teachers, we need to be aware that every child has a different learning style and we need to make sure that each child is receiving the proper attention and appropriate accommodations to their way of learning.