

Goal 5 Reflection

CI 690- Capstone Experience

Indicator 1: Identifying contextual professional problems and issues within education and conduct related research.

In my EDF 622 action research project, I investigated whether settling activities could improve student's behavior and classroom environment after recess. This study was driven by the common challenge of managing student energy levels and facilitating a smooth transition back into the classroom after active play. Over a period of 2-3 weeks, I implemented various settling strategies, including calming exercises and structured activities designed to help students refocus. The goal was to assess the impact of these strategies on student's behavior and the overall classroom atmosphere, ultimately supporting a more conducive learning environment. Through this project, I demonstrated my ability to identify a contextual issue within the educational setting, namely, the challenge of post-recess transitions, and to conduct research aimed at addressing it. By collecting and analyzing data on student behavior before and after the introduction of settling activities, I gained insights into effective classroom management techniques. This research not only allowed me to explore practical solutions for immediate classroom needs but also highlighted the broader implications of structured transitions on classroom climate, illustrating my commitment to understanding and addressing real-world educational challenges.

Indicator 2: Critically analyzing and evaluating research findings and related implications.

During the action research project, I explored the effectiveness of settling activities in enhancing student's behavior and the classroom environment following recess. To gather data, I observed student's behavior and used checklists to track improvements in classroom conduct and

engagement. By critically analyzing the results, I identified trends showing that structured settling activities contributed positively to the student's post-recess behavior, with fewer disruptions and a more calming atmosphere.

This research project allowed me to critically evaluate the implications of implementing transitional strategies in the classroom, illustrating the benefits of intentional calming routines.

Through careful data collection and analysis, I assessed the impact of these activities and interpreted findings to understand how even brief routines can promote a better learning environment. This critical analysis reinforced my ability to evaluate research findings, assess their relevance to practical classroom management, and recognize how such insights could guide evidence-based improvements in early childhood education settings.

Indicator 3: Protecting the rights of human subjects by implementing ethical research.

I completed the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Program on September 12, 2023, achieving a score of 85. This program certifies my understanding of the essential principles in protecting the rights of human subjects in research. Through this training, I have gained valuable knowledge and skills in implementing ethical research practices, including ensuring informed consent, minimizing risk, and safeguarding participant confidentiality.

This certification demonstrates my commitment to maintaining high standards in ethical research. By successfully completing the CITI Program, I am well prepared to conduct research responsibly and with respect for participants' rights and welfare. I will renew this certification in 2026, further underscoring my dedication to staying updated with best practices in human subjects research ethics.

Reflection on the MA Program

My experience in the MA program in Early Childhood Education at Marshall University has been instrumental in equipping me to navigate and address complex issues in the field of education. The program emphasized the importance of identifying and examining contextual challenges within educational settings, a skill that has helped me recognize and analyze various professional problems relevant to early childhood education. The coursework and assignments consistently encouraged me to conduct thorough research and critical analysis of findings, enabling me to develop evidence-based strategies for addressing these issues effectively. Additionally, the program's focus on ethical research practices, reinforced by my CITI certification, has been invaluable in ensuring that I conduct my work responsibly, always prioritizing the rights and welfare of human subjects. These experiences have not only prepared me to critically engage with educational research but also instilled in me a strong commitment to uphold ethical standards in all professional and research endeavors.