

ABSTRACT

EFFECTS OF INTERVENTION ON EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR ETHICAL SENSITIVITY AND JUDGMENT

Based on the Four Component Model of James Rest, ethical sensitivity and moral judgment were measured at pre and post intervals with respect to a professional ethics curriculum intervention. The first variable of interest, ethical sensitivity, was defined as professional insight necessary to respond ethically to complex issues and circumstances in the early childhood educators' work environment. Moral judgment, the second variable of interest, refers to the maturity level of thinking required to make principled judgments in complex moral dilemmas as measured by *The Defining Issue Test (DIT-2)*. Effects of four sessions of professional ethics instruction on early childhood educator ethical sensitivity and moral judgment were examined. Results comparing pre and post assessments revealed a significant effect for ethical sensitivity, but not for moral judgment. Moral judgment was also found to be related to education level of the participants.

Sumer Ann Avila
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