Chapter 1 Frequently Asked Questions

What is meant by a holistic approach?

When working with a child, one should consider the whole child. This means one should look at a child’s physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being when considering the safety, nutrition, or health factors of a child. When a holistic approach is used, those interrelationships will be more easily understood.

What does an ecological perspective do for the teacher?

An ecological perspective views the total environment of the child. The physical, social and emotional, economic, and cultural environments all have an effect on the growth and development of children. Risk factors for safety, nutrition, and health for children may come from any or all of these environments. This can been seen in Figure 1-1. When teachers use this perspective, they are much better prepared to maximize the early childhood education environment.

Why is it important to consider the NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct?

The NAEYC laid ground rules for responsibilities and commitments for teachers in relation to children, their families, their colleagues, and the community. These standards guide the teacher in proper actions for the maximum development of the children with whom they work.

What is meant by cultural competence?

Cultural competence is the demonstration of behaviors, attitudes, and policies that allow for cross cultural effectiveness and valuing of diversity. For quality early childhood education, the best practice in relation to culture would be that the teacher practices and the environment reflects the language and culture of the children present.

Why would you want to create a “caring community” in the early childhood education environment?

Teachers who invite families to partner for the success of the child and are aware of the families’ circumstances and needs are able to be more effective in establishing a caring community for the child. A caring early childhood education community is especially important for the health, safety, and well-being of the child. When families are involved, it is easier to provide maximum protection, prevention, and promotion of safety, good nutrition, health, and well-being.

Why are guidelines, standards, and laws for the health, safety, and well-being of children important?
These guidelines, standards, and laws for the early childhood education environment are created for the purpose of protecting children and promoting quality environments. Early childhood education environments in states where there are stringent regulations tend to provide a higher quality of care than states where regulations are less stringent.