Cecelia Courter

ED 486 Independent Study

Issues in Technology

February 21, 2011

Summary of Ethical and Legal Issues in Technology

After reviewing the websites and articles listed on the class site, I gave out seven of the mini surveys to colleagues that work in the field of early childhood education. All seven of the surveys were returned to me. The teachers all answered the same for the five questions regarding ethical decisions in education.

First I would begin summarizing the survey findings by assuming that most educators are knowledgeable about plagiarism. Plagiarism is copying of materials that are written by another person without giving the true author credit for their work. The teachers all noted in their comments that if you use any part of somebody’s work without citing the source of the work, then it was an obvious case of plagiarism and it was not acceptable. I was surprised that the teachers all wrote comments about plagiarism being unacceptable. In the early childhood field you do not run into ethical decisions similar to the ones presented in the survey. The teachers were very educated on plagiarism and how to cite sources that you use in your work. The answers on the survey were unanimous.

Cheating seems to be a little less black and white for the teachers that I surveyed. Most of the teachers had the same answers regarding cheating and unethical behavior. The question that brought the most comments was the question regarding the student discussing the test in the lunchroom. Another student that hasn’t taken the test yet overhears the discussion. The teachers agreed that the student that was talking about the test was not intentionally participating in unethical behavior. The student listening was voted to be cheating, because he would use the answers for his own gain. This question seemed to spark some interest with the teachers because it wasn’t an obvious unethical behavior. You could see that both students were not trying to act in an unethical manner. However, the end result was that it was dishonest for a student to listen in on answers and use those answers on the test.