**The Interview: Connections with Field**

Student's Name

Institution Affiliation

Course Name

Professor's Name

Date

**The Interview: Connections with Field**

**Step 1: Open-ended interview questions:**

1. Can you describe when you noticed a child seeking more autonomy in their actions and decisions? What did you observe, and how did you respond?
2. Have you realized any issues of power and control between parents or caregivers and kids in your experience? If so, how did you address these issues?
3. How do you foster positive behavior and decision-making while permitting kids to discover and seek independence?
4. Can you discuss one instance in which a child's autonomy-seeking behavior contributed to adverse outcomes? Can you also explain how you handled this situation?
5. Have you found any specific tactics or methods effective in supporting kids' autonomy while ensuring suitable levels of protection and assistance?
6. How do you communicate with parents/caregivers about their child's autonomy-seeking behavior? How do you address any concerns or questions they may have?
7. Have you also realized any cultural or social factors affecting children's autonomy-seeking conduct? Discuss how often you consider taking these factors into your style.
8. From your perspective, can you discuss some advantages and drawbacks of supporting kids' autonomy? Explain how you often balance these factors.
9. Can you explain when you cooperated with parents to address their kids' autonomy-seeking behavior? In addition, explain how you worked together to find a resolution.
10. What suggestions can you give parents struggling to support their kids' autonomy?

**Interviewee response**

In my experience, I have observed that kids usually seek more autonomy as they grow and reach certain developmental milestones, including learning to walk, chat, and decide for themselves. It can sometimes lead to power struggles between them and their parents, mainly as they might want to assert their independence, while their parents may need to maintain control and ensure the child's security. For instance, one example that comes to mind is when a child I was working with insisted on climbing on the playground equipment without any help, even though they were not quite ready for it. I had to balance the child's desire for autonomy with my responsibility to ensure their safety, so I supervised closely and offered Support as needed.

It is vital to allow children to make choices and take liability for their actions in developmentally appropriate ways. For example, permitting a child to choose what to wear or eat can help them feel more in control and invested in their lives. However, it is also essential to set clear boundaries and expectations for conduct and to provide guidance and Support when needed. One strategy that has worked well for me is to offer choices within limits - for example, asking a child to choose between two healthy snack options rather than giving them free rein over the pantry.

It is also critical to connect with parents about their child's autonomy-seeking behavior and involve them in decision-making. Such can help ensure everyone is on the same page and that the child's needs and interests are being considered. Additionally, it is critical to be aware of cultural or societal factors that may influence children's autonomy-seeking behavior and address them.

**Step 2: Essay**

**Key Points from the Interview**

As children seek more autonomy, they may want to assert their independence, make their own decisions, and take risks. This behavior can often lead to power struggles between children and their caregivers, mainly when caregivers must retain control and ensure their protection and safety. Therefore, it is essential to balance promoting positive behavior and decision-making while allowing children to explore and seek independence.

One helpful strategy to support kids' autonomy while maintaining appropriate supervision and guidance is to provide children with opportunities to make choices and take responsibility for their actions in developmentally appropriate ways (Balantekin et al., 2020). For instance, parents and caregivers can allow children to choose their clothes, toys, and snacks, which can help them feel more in control and invested in their own lives. It is essential to clearly understand boundaries and expectations for behavior and offer guidance and Support when necessary. Another strategy that effectively supports children's autonomy is offering choices within limits (Balantekin et al., 2020). For example, instead of providing children with free reign over the pantry, parents and caregivers can offer them choices between two healthy snack options. It allows children to feel that they have a say while giving their parents a level of control.

It is also essential to communicate with parents and caregivers about their child's autonomy-seeking behavior and involve them in decision-making. It can help ensure that everyone is on the same page and that the child's needs and interests are being considered. Additionally, being aware of cultural or societal factors that may influence children's autonomy-seeking behavior is crucial (Balantekin et al., 2020). Parents may also encounter situations where children's autonomy-seeking behavior can lead to adverse outcomes. For instance, a child may insist on doing something that is not safe or appropriate for their age or development (Balantekin et al., 2020). In such situations, balancing the child's desire for autonomy with the caregiver's responsibility to ensure their safety is crucial. The caregiver must communicate their concerns with the child and explain why certain behaviors are not safe or appropriate.

Collaboration among parents and caregivers is vital in addressing children's autonomy-seeking behavior. Parents and caregivers can collaborate to find a solution that meets children's needs while ensuring their safety and wellness. For instance, when a child wants to climb equipment at the playground, which is too advanced for their age, the caregiver and parent can work together to find a settlement. It may entail the caregiver supervising the child closely, giving the required aid, and inspiring the child to try less challenging equipment first. It is essential to note that autonomy-seeking behavior is not always negative. Supporting children's autonomy can lead to many benefits, such as increased self-esteem, improved decision-making skills, and greater independence. However, fostering freedom also comes with unique challenges, including the need for proper levels of supervision and guidance.

Yet, another strategy for helping children's independence is encouraging them to express their sentiments and feelings. Parents and professionals can listen attentively to their children and validate their feelings, even if they do not always agree with their views. This approach can help children feel respected, heard, and valued. Besides, it can promote open communication and trust among children and professionals, helping address challenging situations. Letting them engage in activities that interest them and align with their strengths can also support their autonomy (McCurdy et al., 2020).

Parents and professionals can observe their children's preferences and abilities and offer opportunities for them to explore their interests. For example, children who like drawing can be given art supplies and inspired to express themselves artistically. Such an approach supports their sovereignty and enables them to craft their talents and self-assurance. Likewise, parents and professionals can shape positive conduct and decision-making (Davis & McQuillin, 2022). Kids learn from the adults in their lives, and by observing moral and courteous behavior, they can adopt such values and principles. Additionally, developing positive behavior can stimulate trust and regard between children and their caregivers or parents, supporting their autonomy (Davis & McQuillin, 2022). For instance, professionals who discuss their decision-making with children can model making informed choices while respecting their sovereignty.

Therefore, as presented above, modeling children's sovereignty is fundamental to early childhood growth, learning, and development. For parents and professionals, it is instrumental in fostering positive behavior and decision-making while permitting them to explore and seek freedom. Strategies like providing choices with limits and interacting with parents and caregivers can effectively support their autonomy. Similarly, the adverse outcomes of autonomy-seeking behavior can be addressed by balancing their desires for independence with the parents' and professionals' responsibility to ensure their safety. Partnerships between parents and professionals remain fundamental in addressing children's autonomy-seeking behavior. As such, supporting children's independence leads to several gains, such as high self-esteem, enhanced decision-making skills, and greater autonomy.

References

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