The essay I have submitted was part of my lab assignments in Child Development (CHDV 138L) that focused on social and emotional behavior in children. This essay was my second write-up of an observation of childhood interactions where I had to apply theory. My first essay received extensive feedback and after much guidance on how to improve my first paper, I was able to do much better on my second essay. Both essays required the use of the APA writing standards and referencing format which are used in the field of Child Development.

The first step in writing my paper was to observe children at play and keep a record of what I saw. Then I had to take what I observed and apply theories associated with social and emotional growth in children we had learned and other course concepts. What unfolded was an interesting observation on preschool age aggression. Upon analysis what would have appeared to be random aggression and antisocial conduct before I took this class was found to be directly in-line with Berkowitz’s Frustration/Aggression explanation and what aggression we expect to see in this age group.

In constructing my essay I took what I had seen, what I had learned in class, and an outside research article and tried to find a way to tell the story about this aggressive incident. I used a concept web and evaluated different theories on aggression. Berkowitz’s Frustration/Aggression theory was evident in my observation; however, the child’s desire to retaliate his aggression toward an innocent child who had been revealed as a friend required further investigation.

The outside articles I found inquired about random aggression and conflict management amongst preschool age children. What I found was an article that revealed an aggression tool used by preschool (boys primarily) children to manage aggression. This provided me with the missing link needed to connect what appeared to be random antisocial behavior to age appropriate conflict that is intentional, manageable, and short in duration.

I wrote my essay following the guidelines and using the information I learned from feedback on my previous essay. The guidelines were very detailed so I worked on each section individually then reread the whole paper and added to it to give continuity for the story throughout and tell the story. I must say in writing this essay, the conclusion was the most challenging part because I wanted to convey the importance of my observation in support of the concepts and theories learned in class and the importance of understanding age appropriate antisocial behavior. I worked hard on this paper and I was pleased with the final revisions.

Sincerely,

Debra Lopez