Task Five (Research Plan)

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**Stakeholders**

I have attended Park Place School twice and since talking with some of the staff and children, I can confirm that many of the stakeholders that are majority benefiting from the school are the students and the Director of Operations Aimee Phillips. I would also like to note the community-at-large and the parents of the children as stakeholders, as they will be the ones who benefit from the children’s behavior and conflict management skills after the after-school programs are over.

**What I am Evaluating**

 I will be assessing the after-school programs of Park Place Schools and evaluating how effective the school’s after school program is in regards to conflict management between the children (students). To go into further detail, I hope to evaluate how effective the school teaches the students when they are faced with day-to-day problems with each other and if they allow the student to learn new ways of how to handle conflicts. I have kept in mind the low-income areas the students come from, the services provided to the students, previous visits I have made to the school and noticed, the presence of bullying in the community, and lastly the age group that is serviced by the school. In conclusion, I am measuring if the school combats the culture of bullying and conflicts that traditionally from “at-risk” students.

**Evaluation Question**

1) Are the after-school activities intentionally gearing students toward conflict management?

**Type of Evaluation**

 I will be conducting a goal-free evaluation for the program. I believe that the services provided to the students at the school, I feel that it would be best for me to conduct an observation that does not have a goal but is based on pure observations of the classes and behavior of the students to each other. In current schools, goal-free evaluations are conducted regularly to analyze how the teacher interacts with the students and if the students are engaged with the teacher. I believe that I will get the best results just observing and comparing my findings with the results I have gathered.

**How the Evaluation Aligns with my Question**

The goal-free evaluation aligns with my questions very well by allowing me to actually observe the classroom with no end goal and allow the students to act purely as they would if I was not in there, is a very clear way to get the optimal results. This evaluation method also gives me the approach of some who is just observing and not creating/knowing the preset standards that the program may have already developed. This way I can compare what I have gathered and share the results with the stakeholders, that way this gives the school a clear view of if they are actually gearing these students to conflict management skills when they leave Park Place School.

**How the Evaluation Relates to my Study**

 I believe that the goal-free evaluation relates to my study is that it not only prepares me to record the children’s behavior, but it prepares me for the real world practices I will do in the Human Service profession. I believe that this evaluation is also helpful to my study because it prepares me to analyze how children interact with each other through different upbringings. Lastly, creating an evaluation like this in a low-income area with children who are identified with “at-risk” behavior allows me to connect with them with no end goal but purely observation and building connection with the child and the teacher.

**Data Collecting Method**

Since I will be evaluating this program with a goal-free approach, I will be conducting small interviews with certain students I will notice experience conflict with one another. I will ask them the following questions; 1) What are some of the ways your teacher has taught you to deal with problems? 2) At home with your siblings, what do you normally do if engaged in an argument? 3) if so, has your school taught you these methods? 4) What would you do if your classmate disagreed with you? I feel as though these interviews with children I have observed as in conflict are necessary to gauge the learning process of the children in the after-school program. Lastly, I will use observation as my other approach to data collecting through observing my surroundings and monitoring the children’s behavior with one another. I will want to approach this inconspicuously at first, with the children unaware of why I am there so that I can get the best data possible from the children.

**Research Method**

 I intend to use a qualitative research method to my evaluation, as I feel that this is the best way to effectively to add a certain perspective to my interviews and observations. This approach allows me to choose participants that may be of different race, background, neighborhood, and creed. I can compile these together and take the data from the interviews and discuss the causes with some of the stakeholders and compare the results with articles that have done the same. This research method also allows me to keep not only subjects mentioned above in mind while I conduct my evaluation but it also allows me to dive deeper into the issue of conflict management and after-school programs, it also allows me to bring in more thought about other key issues that a child may face if they are acting out in school and if the after-school programs have no effect on them. Lastly, I believe this works well with my evaluation question as it allows me to go beyond the key question of if the school gears them toward conflict management, it allows me to research outside key components they may have a trigger on the student misbehaving or not knowing what to do in unique situations.