Heather Waldo

Service Learning Reflection #3

 Over the course of the semester, I have seen the topics we covered in class in many of my real-life experiences, what I noticed at Head Start is no exception. Referring to the basics of sociology, I used my sociological eye to view how the children at Head Start interacted with each other. I noticed many patterns of habits within the children and some of their mannerisms reminded me of lessons from class.

 In sociology, I have learned many things involving people and how they act/create society. Going along with the ideology of stereotypes, I noticed one of them while I was at Head Start. For instance, stereotypically, girls wear pink and boys wear blue, almost every child I saw at Head Start acted out this stereotype. They all dressed accordingly to their gender, which showed they were following their gender roles as children and not gender bending. I also noticed how the children interacted with one another and much of their ways of playing and who they played with, supported topics learned in sociology. For example, the girls played with other girls and the boys played with other boys. Also, a boy was offered to play with a toy bug, when a girl most likely wouldn’t have been offered this same toy.

 Going forward, I will use this knowledge whenever I am around children again. I don’t have any siblings and my cousins aren’t very little anymore, but whenever I find myself around small children, I will remember what I learned in sociology. Using my knowledge from sociology, I can now examine human interactions and patterns on a much deeper level. I can see how concepts like gender roles, stereotypes, and race are humanly constructed. I now understand much of what people complain about and wish to change, they reinforce it some way in their everyday lives, without even realizing it. Like how all the children wore gender tailored clothing or played with certain toys, that was all done by their parents or other adults, telling the children that was acceptable or normal for them to do/wear. That’s pretty eye opening, how we as people have the power to change society but just choose not to, then wonder why nothing changes.

 I will also keep this information in mind when I go to my next service project. I will also be able to further analyze my surroundings sociologically and I will also try to keep an open mind, which I believe is a big part of sociology. Using the information, I learned throughout the semester will be useful in my everyday life as well. Whether I am around small children, at a service project or just going to the dining hall here at Longwood, I believe I will be better understanding human patterns and how they are formed within a society or group of people.