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Human Relations Report Exceptional Learner

For my clinical in Exceptional Learner I was placed at Franklin Elementary School in Mankato Minnesota. I was in a 6th grade resource room. I was able to work one on one with students and in small groups. I helped one student in his reading class. I was to help him stay focused and not just blurt out during the class time. It was neat to see how the student and the teacher interact with one another. In some cases the teachers interacted more than others. In the resource room there tended to be more boys than girls which I was not surprised about because boys tend to show their misbehaviors more than girls.

During this experience I was able to see how the teachers interact with students that are in a special education room or resource room. Some teachers try their best to keep the student on task and to keep them involved, while others did not show this as much. I was not sure if they just did this because they knew the student had someone there that could assist them if needed or if the teacher is just unsure of how to help the students and just expect their resource teacher to help them. I was also able to see different students interact with each other. It was interesting to see neurotypical students interact with those that have been diagnosed with something. Some were willing to work with the students while others were hesitant because they knew there was something wrong. In a way this was sad to see because every student should feel welcomed when in a classroom but that is not realistic in any way.

A. I was able to work with students that were different in many ways whether it was their skin color, ability to finish an assignment, how their home life is and many more. This made it

challenging because I was not sure how to approach each student in the best way possible for them. I realized it is different for every student. Some are open and willing to talk while others would rather keep to themselves.

B. I was able to recognize different discrimination or biases while in a normal classroom. The students did not always treat the student that I was working with in the best way just because he was a little different. During 6th grade students want to look cool and interact with students that are like them. This made it hard for the student that I worked with because he did not completely understand how to interact with the students in the class. He could not fully pick up on social cues that his peers would give to him.

C. While at Franklin working on the student's self-esteem was the biggest thing. There was one student that lacked a lot of this. It was sad to see at some points because she was so down on herself. We had to stay positive and tell her that she was good at what she was doing and to keep trying until she succeeds. In the class I observed the teacher gave rewards to the students like candy and star slips. This helped to motivate the students to work hard and try their best. For some students it works a lot and for others they could care less.

D. I believe that every student should have an equal right to the same education. Some students will need to learn in a different way but the overall outcomes should be similar to a standard classroom. I loved seeing that the students in the resource room were normal preteens that go through everyday challenges.