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EDUC 340/EDUC 370

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02 May 2016

Mount Olive Human Relations Report

I was placed in a kindergarten classroom at Mount Olive Lutheran School for my Teaching Science and Social Studies clinical. The kindergarteners enjoyed to be active, moving, and conversing with their friends often throughout activities and lessons. Mrs. Sehloff was exceptional when it came to intriguing the students into her lessons. They were very proud of their accomplishments once they have mastered a new skill. I found that the students were able to make connections to previous material learned or something they had experienced previously. In each lesson, a previous lesson or concept was summarized or reviewed. This was to keep the learning in a constant circle. This allowed the students who were behind or struggling with a specific concept to catch up or review the material in a different way than what it was taught.

This class required a more extensive planning as well as more attention than what I am used to. The students' success is dependent upon you, the teacher. They want to have the one-on-one instruction and they will do what they can to get that from any adult in the room. They also crave and desire attention getters to the lesson. Without an attention getter, the students will not be focused on your lesson. Instead, they will be curious as to what bird just flew past the window. With this, it is important that the teacher draws these students in and teaches them all as a group, while not individualizing any single student out to help (unless appropriate). I taught two units throughout my time at Mount Olive- the farm and weather. There were many "fun" things to do with these units but I had to discern which were more valuable to use. I had a hard time deciding what to do and what not to do. There were so

many things that would be beneficial to these students; however, there is not enough time in a week to complete it. With this age group, positive and constructive feedback is vital to their success. At this age, the students are more susceptible to emotional feelings and worrying that they are not “good enough” or that their work is not “good enough.”

A. I was able to tell that these students are given more than most students in a public school.

They are able to use their gifts in the classroom as well as in the home. Many children in the public schools and outside of that are not always given the opportunity to share with their families the school work and their accomplishments. Sometimes, children are not dependent on their families to help them with school work and issues. The children at Mount Olive are blessed with parents who care for their child’s education and want the best for them as they walk through the life that God grants them. The students in this class have support from their families, church community, and teachers. Many of the families in this classroom are able to afford for their child to gain a positive educational experience through extended resources and materials. This allows the student to be successful in his/her future as he/she finds learning a fun and enjoyable experience in which they can share with the people they love. This is a vital thing to remember as many schools do not have parents and families willing to help out and follow their child’s education.

B. It is vital that the teacher is able to see and understand verbal and nonverbal communication from his/her students. With this class at Mount Olive, there was minimal bullying that was noted; however, as usual, it happened and it will happen anywhere you go. There were many times that student A understood a concept clearly; however, student B was completely lost. At this age, competition and “I’m better than you” type of attitude is contagious. They enjoyed showing off

to their classmates and enjoyed showing their peer that they could do it by completing their own assignment. At such a young age, this is bullying and needs to be corrected immediately. They need to understand that everyone is different and not everyone is going to get things as quickly or as slowly as someone else does. Everyone is *unique*. The rule of doing your own work and keeping your eyes on your own paper was enforced when I was teaching. It was made clear that the individual struggling needs to learn to do it on his/her own otherwise they will never know how to do it. If the work is getting done for them, what will they learn?

C. Teachers must create a positive environment in which the students feel safe and comfortable to learn and grow in. In kindergarten, it is important to recognize that the students will feel comfortable when they and their work is appreciated. Confidence is key. There was one student in particular in which talked more than she worked. While the students were working on their craft project once day, I saw her with her head on the table looking utterly defeated and crying to herself as tears dripped onto her pants. She was frustrated with her ability to draw a cat. Before long, I was able to lead her through the steps while putting an image of a cat on the board. I then reminded her that this is a difficult animal to draw and with some practice, she would be a master cat drawer! She was then able to complete her drawing and begin painting. It is also important to keep a positive school environment due to the simple fact that the home lives of students are so unpredictable. Parents can easily put on a show in public or at conferences. But how is it really like at home? One of the students came from a home where her parents were divorced. She was very upset one day because she was going to be staying at her dad's that night, which she did not want to do. These feelings made it very hard for her to continue with the rest of class and complete projects accurately.

D. All of the students in this classroom came from similar backgrounds as they all came from white homes with a Lutheran background. These homes are often times regarded to as having more emotional and physical support from the parents in the family. Parents and families can have a dramatic impact on their child's education and educational experience. Mrs. Sehloff can give students "homework" to do at home with confidence knowing that it will get done and returned to school the next day. Being able to have a strong relationship with common families is important to the growth and education of children.