

Rachael Heidorn

Human Relations Report

2 April 2017

This experience consisted of 23 second graders. There were 12 girls and 11 boys. The subjects taught throughout the 13 weeks were, language arts, math, health, science, art, and social studies. The class consisted mainly of Caucasian children. There was two Hispanics, two Somali, and one Native American. For one hour, four days a week, the school has flexible grouping. This means that the students across three classes are divided into three levels: above-level, on-level, and below-level. 20 on-level students from two other classrooms come into our classroom and five of our own students stay for what is called WIN time (What I Need time). Those students who come in are also mainly Caucasian. The rest consist of five Hispanic, one Somali, and one African American.

Teaching children that are all from the same ethnic background is easy. This is the first experience I had where I really had to cater how I taught, especially with the students from the Somali culture. They need a lot less instructions more pictures to connect the content being learned to their schema. Apart from that aspect, the students with different ethnic backgrounds are kids. They are kids that love to learn, love to come to school, and have a good heart. It was my goal during this experience to reach every students whether they were Caucasian, Somali, African American, Hispanic; on a level where they were respected and loved by me.

A. Many students in my class come from families that can hardly survive from paycheck to paycheck. They receive a weekend food bag just so they can eat that weekend. I have

always been aware that students come from many different backgrounds but this experience showed me first hand how it affects the student's learning. The students who do not know where they belong are the ones that need the most attention.

- B. Regardless of where my students have come from, they all deserve the same education. My values might not align with some of my students values, but this will not skew how I teach. All students that walk into my classroom are equal and are going to get the same education as their peer.
- C. When my students step into my classroom for the first time, they will know they are loved and wanted. After seeing how other teachers spread their love onto their own students, I have formed my own image of what a nurturing environment needs to look like. Regardless of race, religion, or cultural background; my students will receive my love and gain valuable knowledge.
- D. All humans beings have the right to learn. Yes, some students are easier to teach than others. Some students need physical, emotional, and intellectual accommodations. After this experience, I have gained a knowledge of how to accommodate all types of students so they get the best education they can get. It first starts with gaining a connection with my students. They need to trust me and know that I care about them. Then comes the accommodation that the specific student needs.