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Homeschool Overall Reflection

Working with the homeschool students this week was very helpful because we were able to practice teaching with actual students. I also liked that within the week we were able to experience three different age groups. While working with the students, I realized that the more structure there is, the more success there is in a lesson. When the students had concrete rules and boundaries, the lesson went a lot smoother. Also, if rules were very clear, the students knew what to do and what was expected of them. That being said, I do think it's important that students learn what to do with a little more freedom. Students need to learn that they do not always have to have strict rules and boundaries in a learning setting. The older students seemed to be able to adapt more easily to a less structured environment than the primary children did. Both of these concepts would probably be more apparent with more planning before the lesson.

One thing that I struggled with this week was discipline. I have found that I have better discipline with students that I see on a regular basis. It is also hard to discipline children when their parents are literally feet away and can watch you scold their child. There were some primary students that liked to hit the teachers (never the students), and thought this was humorous behavior. If the parents weren't there I probably would have been more comfortable being firmer with them. This is probably something that I will have to get used to.

I also noticed that some of the students in all of the age groups got overwhelmed during some of the activities. I think that this was because a lot of the students are probably not used to

being in such a big environment with so many children. This is something else that all of the children would have to accommodate. Accommodating this would consist of keeping a positive fun atmosphere and being sympathetic if they become upset or cry. I found that when the students became upset, simply talking to them and encouraging them helped a lot. It would be interesting to see the same activities done in an actual school setting.