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Professor Gust

Intro to Early Childhood Education

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Observation: Mrs. Daniels Preschool

On Thursday I observed Mrs. Daniels preschool at Manchester Elementary. I went into the room not quite knowing what to expect. Her classroom was very colorful; filled with learning induced toys and posters. There were three adults and seven children in the room; making it easier to have one-on-one time with a child when necessary.

When I arrived it was story time. The children were all sitting in a small circle listening and laughing at the book that Mrs. Daniels was reading. Afterwards it was play time, which seemed to be the children's favorite part of the day. I was extremely excited because Mrs. Daniels let me interact with the children. I learned that four of the children that I spoke with had impaired verbal communication. I noticed throughout the day that Mrs. Daniels talked and signed to the children. She also shows videos called Signing Time, which is great for those children who are having trouble communicating.

One little boy was eager to show me his skills with colors and numbers. We looked through several books and he would count the objects for me and name the colors. It was also neat to see all the adults playing with the children. Some children were involved with cooperative play, while others preferred solitary play. However, everything is not fun in games. The children are learning what behaviors are acceptable. For instance, they are learning to share; while I was there two of the children were sent to time-out for there bad behavior over toys. The

amount of time spent in time-out depended upon the severity of the bad behavior. While I was present the longest time was five minutes.

It was a very successful day for me. I have never been in such an environment and I loved it. The children were adorable and filled with curiosity and excitement. I really liked the amount of one on one time that could be given to a child when needed; with three adults in the room it made it much easier to focus on one child when necessary. I also enjoyed their enthusiasm in learning; for instance the little boy that was counting for me, he was ecstatic at what he had accomplished. I also liked how the teachers would play with the children. They played with cars, cards, and even colored with the children. It was a fun filled day that has made me reconsider my future; I am thinking that maybe I want to be involved with a pre-school or daycare.