

Manchester Church of the Brethren

P.O. Box 349 North Manchester, Indiana 46962 260-982-7523

Location: 1306 North Beckley Street



Church of the Brethren

Greetings from Manchester Nursery School,

This letter is to report that Amanda Dennis  
has completed their six hours of community service. We  
appreciate their willingness to become involved in our program.  
We wish them success as they continue their educational  
endeavors at Manchester College.

"Children are the only future the human race has, teach  
them well."

Teacher

*Joel Eiel*

Director

*Joel Eickman*

"A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove, but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child." (Kathy Davis) I think that this quote is a great example of why I want to teach, which is why I chose to do my service project at Manchester Church of the Brethren Preschool.

My first grade teacher inspired me to teach. She made learning fun and kept her students interested in learning. She would use tactics such as singing and dancing to help with memorization and motivation. She would also use games to her advantage; we would have math races on the board, and use fun art projects to help reinforce concepts and ideas.

Everyone has been inspired by a teacher at some point in their lives. They have inspired them to try new things and challenge themselves. Teachers have a huge impact on children's lives; they give them a base for their future. I want to change a child's life, get them excited about learning, and eager to come to school everyday. I may not make a lot of money, or drive a fancy car, but I will have touched a child; inspired them, given them a base in which to build off of. This is why I want to teach, and this is why I chose to volunteer at Manchester Church of the Brethren Preschool.

I am hoping that through this service project I can get a feel for what it will be like to teach young children. It will give me a head start in my career and allow me to help my community. I am also hoping to have a lot of fun. I love being around children; they are always full of energy and entertaining.

My first day of volunteering was a learning experience for me. I met with the director of the preschool, Joel Eichenauer, and he explained to me the kinds of things that

I would be doing. I was allowed to jump in whenever I felt necessary. I was to help keep the children on task, keep them focused on their projects, and I even got to play with them outside.

The next week I felt a little more comfortable around the children. I had an idea of how their day progressed and knew what to expect. When I arrive at 10:30 they are all engaged in some kind of art project. They follow that activity with playtime either outside or in the gym. The day continues with story time and snack.

Each week became a little more interesting. I was beginning to learn more about the students; how they acted in class, what they liked and disliked. I learned that one little boy needed a lot of help to stay on task. He was easily distracted and needed a lot of positive reinforcement to stay motivated.

As my hours continued, I helped pass out papers, and snack. I worked with some students one-on-one helping them to finish projects and stay on task. One day I had to help a little boy named Austin in the construction of his train that they were doing for art. The train was made out of different shapes that they had been learning throughout the week, and he was having a little trouble identifying which shape went where. I also got to help students with their letters. They are beginning to learn different letters, their sounds, and how to write them.

Each day was a new experience, filled with different ups and downs. The children were excited and always eager to learn. They kept me on my toes and moving, and always had a funny story or quote to share. They were a lot of fun to work with and I would love to go back on my free time and help out.

These experiences can easily be integrated into the motivation modules in psychology. Motivation is a need or desire that energizes and directs behavior. This is something that was displayed everyday in the class. Every child had a desire to do well, or to be accepted. Motivation is then broken up into three theories, one of which is instinct theory. This was displayed daily in how the children played. It was their instinct to be like their elders. They played games such as store and house, which are all mimics of adults.

Drive reduction theory is another concept that was displayed. It is the idea that a physiological need creates an aroused tension state that motivates an organism to satisfy that need. An example that stands out in my mind is when one of the fellow volunteers that I was working with got kicked by one of the students. The volunteer was sitting in his chair, <sup>which</sup> ~~that~~ made the child mad so then he acted on it by kicking the volunteer.

Lastly, achievement motivation can be applied; which is a desire for significant accomplishment for mastering skills or ideas, for control, and for rapidly attaining a high standard. All the children wanted high achievement. When doing their art projects most if not all the students wanted their project to look like the example that Miss Lisa had shown them. They felt that her way was correct and they want to mimic that. Another example would be when the children were sharing stories, each child wanted their story to be better; they felt that if their story was better they were the high achiever or had the high standard.

This whole experience has been great. I had a blast getting to know the students and being involved in the classroom. I really feel secure in my major now. I know that working with kids is something that I want to do and something that I feel I am somewhat

good at. I loved spending time with these youngsters. They kept me entertained and on toes. I was always anxious to see what they would come up with next.

Volunteering at Manchester Church of the Brethren Preschool was a great experience. It is something that I would love to continue if they would allow it.

Volunteering has <sup>e</sup>insured me that I have chosen the correct major. Teaching children is something that I want to continue for the rest of my life.

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Service Learning Journal Grading Criteria

20 (20) Cover letter

10 (10) Discussed expectations of the service learning experience (where, why, & what do you expect)

30 (30) Daily record of the service project experience

10 (10) Integration with psychology (2 or 3 ways)

19 (20) Quality of writing (e.g., grammar, syntax, spelling)

10 (10) Synthesis and reflection on the service learning project

99 (100) Total points