

Chase Estepp

Professor Eastman

Intro to Early Childhood

27 April 2008

Field Experience Reflection

Being able to have a field experience where I can go out to a classroom and be with the students will be very helpful for me in my professional development and becoming a teacher. I felt like there were a lot of new experiences that I gained from doing this, and was a very enjoyable time for me during the class.

I did my field experience at Syracuse Elementary School in Syracuse. I chose to be in Mrs. McCauley's classroom with her third graders. Instead of doing separate field experiences I chose to do my experience over Spring Break and do it on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. I thought that by doing my experience over a week and spending consecutive days with the students would be better than stringing them out over a period of time. The reason why I chose to do a third grade class is because I want to teach the upper elementary grades so I thought that if I did a first or second grade class then I would not get the true experience of what type of students I would be associated with day in and day out while teaching.

My first day of going to the field experience I really did not know what to expect and thought I would be very nervous with my first introduction to the students. When I showed up to the school on the first day I checked into the office and signed in and the secretary told me where Mrs. McCauley's room was located. As I was walking down the hallway I was making sure that I looked appropriate and was thinking what I was going

to say when I walked into the classroom. I opened the door and the students were working on their reading time in the reading center and at their desks. Mrs. McCauley welcomed me into the class and then stopped the students so that she could introduce me to them. She stated that I went to Manchester and I wanted to be an Elementary Teacher and then she allowed the students to ask any questions they had for me. One of the students asked me if I was Irish because I had my red beard and also because it was St. Patrick's Day so they had been talking about Leprechauns and Irish history. After the students were finished with their questions she passed out a paper that she was going to have the students write an adventure story about St. Patrick's Day. I then asked her if I could have a paper so I could write my own story. After I finished my story I colored in the picture and waited for the rest of the students to finish, while they were finishing I went around and helped any of the students that needed help finishing up their story. After that they went out to recess and during that time Mrs. McCauley and I just talked about the class and what I was going to do during that week. The students came back into the class and she had me help two students with their Math. It felt good to be able to help them and make sure that they got their Math finished. It was then time to clean up and they went home.

On the second day I showed up and the whole class went into the computer lab to type up a letter that they wrote earlier in the morning. I just went around and helped any of the students that needed help with spelling or how to do certain things on the computer. After all of them finished typing their letter we went back into the classroom and then they started working on their Math again. They all took out their times table and they went through the multiples of 3,4, and 5 together as a class and then I went and

worked with the same two students to finish up their homework again. After working with them for about twenty five minutes it was time to go home again so they picked up all of their materials and then left to go home.

The third day of my field experience I went into the class and the students were working on writing a poem about whatever they wanted to write about. As they started finishing up their poems Mrs. McCauley had me help them with organizing their poems from the past couple months and put them in a certain order. She wanted them to be put into order because one of the moms from the class was going to bind them so that the students could take them home and show their parents what they had been doing. When recess came around some of the students had to stay in because they either did not get their poems finished and organized or she was going to have them correct their Math homework from the night before. The reason why she allowed some of the students to correct their homework is because they made careless mistakes or may not have understood what the problem was. She had me help them with either of the two and it was different because I was helping them individual so I felt like there was a lot of pressure to make sure that I said the right things or helped them. After recess ended the rest of the students came back into the classroom and started doing their Math again and I helped out the two students again to give them assistance. They started packing up their materials and then left for home.

For my last day of the experience I was with another teacher because Mrs. McCauley took a sick day. I went into Mrs. Slusser's room and she introduced me to the students. They were also doing their reading activities when I first got into the class. Mrs. Slusser had me then go out into the hallway with one of her students and read a book with

him and then prepare him to take an A.R. test in the computer lab. After we got back from taking the test she had me draw a couple of leaves and roots because she was then going to cut them out and put them on her bulletin board that she was making out in the hallway. I really did not do as much as the previous three days because I was in a different class for only the one day.

While I was in Mrs. McCauley's classroom I quickly noticed that she setup her room so that the students could feel comfortable and would be interested in what was going on in the classroom. I felt that she did a great job of providing many different ways of learning for her students through the many activities that she did. Her classroom was not cluttered, messy, or unorganized. Through talking to her I know that she tried really hard to setup her room so that the students could adapt to her room. Another thing that I noticed is that her students wanted to come to school and be with her everyday. She is one of those teachers who make every minute of class fun and enjoyable so that the students do not get bored and lose their attention span. She was open to answer their questions at anytime and made sure that she had a close friendship with her students so they could come to her anytime for help.

After looking back on my field experience I realize that there are some characteristics that I need to work on before becoming a teacher. I realized that as a teacher you have to be able to support every child's learning and even though some may learn things slower than others you have to be there to support them because that could be the one thing that pushes them to pass school. While working with two of the students on their Math everyday I learned that I am very good with providing assistance and make it easier for them to understand a problem that they might have had no clue what to do. I

thought that I did a good job of making the students comfortable so they could ask me questions if they needed help.

Taking part in this field experience was a great way for me to see what it is going to be like in a classroom everyday and how to work with the students. It was very helpful to watch Mrs. McCauley work with her students and see what types of teaching strategies she used. Even though I might setup a classroom different or have different teaching strategies, we had high-quality conversations about standards and just different things that I will encounter while teaching. It was a great experience and provided me with new ideas on how to teach and how to develop a great teacher-student relationship.