

Abby White

First Placement: 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

Weekly Journals 3/2-3/6/09

Journal #5

Monday:

Today was my teachers first day back into the classroom and for some reason my students are not listening to me nearly as well as what they used to. I am not sure if this is because I am just not being as strict on them or if her being back in the classroom is a problem. You would think they would be much worse when she is gone, not in the building.

Since the children were so crazy today, it made lessons much harder to give. I think the problem could also be with the fact that I am not very good at giving direction. This is something that my teacher has pointed out to me, and I try really hard to be better, but I keep catching myself not giving the greatest directions. This is something I need to work on.

Another thing that my teacher says I need to work on is praising the students who are doing what they are suppose to be doing to get the ones who are not doing what they are suppose to be doing back on task. I always said this was something I was going to do in my classroom management plan, but when it comes time to do it, I always have trouble. I think this is because in

my mind I just think students should not be praised for doing what they are suppose to be doing. This is a mindset that I know I need to change, but I keep having trouble changing it.

Today the students learned how to subtract 6. They are starting to get really antsy about subtracting larger numbers and feel that they cannot do this. I tell them that I have confidence in them, but I guess time will tell. I have also noticed that if I cut the lesson up and teach before they go to their specials and then quiz them on what they have learned when they get back they do much better than if I just taught the whole lesson together.

Tuesday:

Today in word study the students are learning how to add on prefixes. This does not seem to make any sense to them. They caught onto suffixes quickly so I figured the idea that you just add to the front instead of the end would be an easy idea to them. I guess I will have to work on this more tomorrow.

Today I tried to praise students who were behaving good, but it did not work at all. I think this strategy only works if there are just one or two students who are misbehaving, plus if you do not praise every student they get upset with you. I guess I do not really understand how this strategy works. My teacher

says that she tells them that she will praise them sometime and not the students who got the praise today, but the kids do not seem to care about this with me. They are getting more and more out of control every day.

In math the students had their written assessment. They did not do so well on the test. I think this is because they think that they are so far above having the test read to them that they are just speeding past the questions and not paying attention to all the little details. Next week I will make sure to tell them that they have to stay with me and not go ahead. This may be boring to some of the students who are higher achievers, but I bet they will pay more attention to detail on the next test.

Wednesday:

Today in word study it was like the students learned nothing yesterday. They acted as if they had never been told any of the information from yesterday. I am not sure what is going on with them this week. Maybe it is the weather change. I retaught what I taught yesterday and started the next lesson. They seem to be doing a little better today.

In math they learned how to multiple by 10. They were not understanding the whole 5 groups of 10 thing, so I showed them

the short cut of how anything you multiple by ten you just add a 0 to the end. After they got past that, I talked more about how you have to see that it is so many groups of a number. I think they finally understood but they were so hung up on how to get the answer that they could not get past it.

They finished their maps today and I graded them and the students all did really well. I think they finally understand how maps look and that they are looking from above like a bird. Tomorrow they will be going out to the play ground and mapping the play ground in partners.

Thursday:

Today in word study they did a worksheet where they cut out the part of the word and then add it to the correct whole word. They did much better today than they have done all week. Glad to see that they are doing better.

Today in social studies they went out to the play ground and made maps of the play ground together in partners. This really tested my classroom management skills. They seemed a little out of control, but when it came down to it, they did what was asked of them and when I needed their attention, they gave it to me. They all put the correct labels on the map, so I feel that we can now move on. Glad to see they are now understanding maps.

In math the students learned how to count by 25's. We did this by using quarters. The students once again seemed to not understand a word I was saying before they went to specials, but by the time they got back everyone of them could count off. I still think this is something we will touch on again.

Friday:

Today the students had their spelling test. Students are not doing as well as normal. I honestly think this comes down to the fact that they are just trying to work ahead and not paying attention. I am going to have to have a talk with them about it on Monday.

This afternoon they got to have a complement party which is once they reach 15 smiley faces they get to have a party. They have been having trouble telling time, so we played time bingo. They at first freaked out about this, but they soon learned that they could do it. Before we started playing I reviewed with the class. I still think time is a problem for the students, and I think it is something we are going to have to work on some more.

Today my one student who has been causing all the trouble acted up again. I just sent him to the back table and he did not get to participate in the second half of the complement party. He sat back there the whole time and fake cried. We had a

meeting with his mom Friday afternoon and she seems to be strict on him, but it just does not seem to have any effect on him at school. We are going to try new things this next week. Hopefully it changes things.