February 2, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

A research project was conducted during January Session 2010 at Manchester Elementary School in North Manchester, IN. Jaclyn Gore, an elementary education major teacher candidate, was a substitute teacher of a small group reading session with seven first grade students that meet after school for 40 minutes. She conducted a small group reading session utilizing the learning style preference of auditory learners and supervised curbside pick-up, expediting first grade departure and parent traffic.

The level of participation in this research project provided opportunities for Jaclyn to develop her skills in the following CARE objectives:

C1: plans informative, developmentally appropriate lessons and/or units
C5: teaches students to use critical thinking and problem solving strategies
C6: uses effective questioning strategies

Jaclyn’s involvement in this research project also allowed her to establish professional relationships with first grade students enhancing her development of the following CARE objectives including

R1: demonstrates sensitivity for diversity with students, colleagues, parents, college faculty, and/or community agencies
R2: demonstrates with full awareness of ethical and legal responsibilities of teachers
R3: values life-long learning, personal/professional development, and/or service orientation
R4: models appropriate oral communication skills
R6: motivates students to learn individually, collaboratively, and cooperatively

When engaging students in reading activities Jaclyn created a positive and caring environment developing her skills in the following CARE objectives

E1: differentiates learning opportunities that respond to individual learning styles and learning challenges
E2: uses a variety of teaching methods and materials
E3: uses a variety of appropriate media and technology
E5: manages student behavior in positive, safe ways

The opportunity to participate as a teacher engaged in research goes beyond the traditional undergraduate elementary education program providing Jaclyn a unique professional learning experience Jaclyn’s level of dedication and commitment to engaging her students in activities toward reading development in a positive and caring environment was appreciated by the principal investigator in charge of this research project. The principal investigator also appreciated Jaclyn’s assistance daily in copying, compiling, recording, and packaging books for each first grader and the small group teachers.

Sincerely,

Victoria Eastman
Instructor and Principal Investigator