

February 12, 2008

Today was the first day we went to meet our students with disabilities. I was nervous and excited at the same time because I have not had a whole lot of experience with disabled people. The first experience was totally not what I expected. Some of the students were very outgoing and wanting to know who we were the instant we got there, and some were not so interested. I noticed that if one child did something, it would be a trend among the others to do the same. One student wouldn't say his name, so the next three students did not want to share their names. The teacher did a lot of rhythm and song activities to get the students up and going. We got to participate, and it was actually fun. It is crazy how much fun the students can have with an egg that makes noise when you shake it. The teacher did a lot of things, where she would do certain actions, and the students would follow with the same action. A lot of the students had a hard time keeping up and following, but there were a few who did the actions well. I also noticed that their attention span was about non-existent. The teacher was reading a book, and a little boy was so concerned about who just called on the phone. Overall, I really enjoyed my first experience. It is neat how these students can be faced with setbacks, but they still have the kindest hearts.

February 19, 2008

We actually got to do activities with the students today. I did not think we would be doing anything with them until the third visit, but it went okay. At first, we were not really sure what to do because we did not know what these young disabled students could comprehend. We asked the teacher and she provided us with a few things we could use. I found it really interesting how just running around a room with a ribbon is so interesting! We did that, and we had the students participate in a few different relays. Sometimes they did things wrong, but they were still willing to give an effort. Then we took them into the hallway, and they had to walk across these doom things. This really helped with their balance. Today I noticed how hard it really is to try to explain to the students exactly

what you want them to do. Next time, I'm sure we will be more prepared in what we are going to have the students do because we did not know we'd be teaching today.

February 26, 2008

We did not go today because of a school cancellation.

March 4, 2008

Today was our second time actually doing activities with the students. I thought the interaction between us and the students was a lot better, especially because we are learning their names. Knowing the names makes a big difference! We did a lot of the same activities that we did the last time. They ran around with ribbons, jumped through hoops, and walked on cones. All the students asked if we were going to do the same things because they loved it so much. So that is part of the reason we did not change the activities. I have actually seen improvement in the kids already! They seem to understand the concept of jumping through the hoops a lot better. One thing really stuck out to me today. There is a little girl who always wants to hold my hand, and can not do an activity unless I am holding her hand. I challenged her today though. I told her I would hold her hand half way through and then she could prove that she could finish the activity alone. It worked, she did half the activities without holding my hand. It was so neat to see the improvement of self confidence and independence. I'm excited to go back and challenge her and the rest of the students.

March 11, 2008

Today we changed the activities up a little so the students would not get bored with doing the same thing every week. In the hallway, we split our students up into groups and had them do relays. The teacher has cones that are all different colors (6 of each color). We spread the cones around and each group was a color. They had to collect all the cones of their color, one at a time, by running back and forth. This worked very well and they enjoyed it. I'm not sure if it was the age or the disabilities, but they did not get the concept of racing each other very well. It was not a bad thing though because one boy was always encouraging the other group. Then we played duck, duck, goose. They loved this!

There was a specific girl who always wanted to be it though. It was frustrating because after every round, the girl will yell “me,” as if it were her turn. I had to sit with her and remind her that she had to wait her turn and to use her inside voice. All the students participated very well in all the activities. It seems like they always enjoy the activities, no matter what they involve. I’m really starting to like all my students and know how to accompany them in how they participate in the activities.

March 25, 2008

Today the students seemed like they ate a bag of candy before we got there because they were hyper and hard to keep in control. While Cortney and I were setting up activities we asked the students to sit on a bench and to stay quite. They listened and followed directions, except one boy. I eventually had to sit him out of the activities because he was not listening. I learned today that the silent game works well with younger students. We introduced duck, duck, goose two weeks ago, and ever since then that is all they want to play. They really enjoy it so sometimes we try to put twists to the game. For example, instead of running in a circle, they run through an obstacle course. I noticed today that if one kid was acting up, a few of the others would as well. Because of this, we separated these boys as much as possible.

April 1, 2008

The students had spring break this week.

April 8, 2008

We did not go today because tomorrow we are having a practice meet at the college.

April 9, 2008

Today the students came to the college for their practice meet. At the beginning the students were hard to control and we’re running wild. There were a few specific children that were causing most of the problems. They were just wondering off and going places they were not suppose to be. When we split into our groups, it was a lot easier to handle. Logan gave us the most problems. He was always wondering off and not staying with the

group. He continuously ran away when we told him to come. Every time I tried talking to him to tell him not to do something, he would pull away and ignore me. So I finally put him in time out, and that worked for the most part. He still wondered off some but not as bad. Mitchell also accompanied Logan in a lot of his mischief. Then there were students who really wanted to please us, and try their best. I noticed with some of the students, they are developmentally behind. With the throwing, I thought that most difficulty presented itself. More of the students did not know the correct way to throw a ball, but some did. Overall, the students did well and I really think they enjoyed getting out of the elementary school and coming to the college.

April 15, 2008

Today we got to go outside with the kids because it was a really nice day. The first five minutes we gave them free time to run around and play on the equipment. They loved this, and they were constantly moving. Then we split the students into groups. Of course, when Ricky split them up he gave Courtney and I the ones that were acting up today. Joey was the worst today. Every time we asked him to do something he would fall to the ground and throw a fit. The only thing that made him participate was threatening him with going inside for the rest of the time. He was very frustrating! Then the usual, Logan, always wondering off. We've learned that you have to be constantly doing something, and not have them waiting in lines to keep their constant attention and keep them from wandering around. We did obstacle courses, threw, and did a modified long jump activity. Then we played red light, green light. They love this activity, and it works really well because it keeps them moving and doesn't take much attention from all the students. Today was one of our most productive days with the students because we had more space, and they loved being outdoors.

April 22, 2008

We got to go outside again today because it was so nice. The students got free time at first, and then we played freeze tag. The students cooperated for the most part. Joey was throwing temper tantrums, like usual. I noticed every time he was threatened with a time out, he would get up and participate though. I have been noticing the past few times that

the students do seem to share things very well. The students who were the taggers had to wear a thing to signify they were the taggers. When we asked them to give it to someone who hasn't been a tagger, they immediately did. They always cooperate with sharing things. Again, we have found the zipping your lips and throwing the key away is the perfect solution to keeping the students quiet for a period of time. Overall, today was successful and we wore the kids out because they were exhausted when we got back inside.

April 29, 2008

We went outside again today. We had the students do an obstacle course, play Simon says, and play duck, duck goose. During Simon says, if any of the students were not participating they would have to sit out. We did this because some of the kids were wandering off or fighting with each other. Them knowing if they did not participate, they would have to sit out for a little bit made them participate even more. Logan was a hassle today. We really never got him under control either. He would always run off and not listen when you yelled at him to come back. Or he would go out of turn and butt in from of everyone else. We tried using a time out, having to go back inside, and not participating tomorrow when they come to the college. It still did not work. I was very frustrated with him. Nadia also caused some struggle. She has moments where she completely excludes herself and will not participate. I think she does this for attention because when you ask her to come back and play, she wont. But if you ignore her, she eventually comes back in by herself and starts to participate. Joey did a lot better today than he normally does. All the other students did a good job at listening and participating.

April 30, 2008

We had our second practice track meet today. Things went better this time around, than the first time. The students did a much better job at staying in line and not wandering off. The softball throwing station went great. The students did a great job at throwing. Logan was a hassle again today. He would not stay in line or any where around the station we were at. He kept wandering off in every direction, and would not listen to any one. We finally told him he could not participate anymore, that kind of made him stay focused for

a little while. Nadia also would not participate very much. So we told her she could sit out and when she wanted to join back she could. She participated off and on. We stayed and ate lunch with them too. That was fun to sit down with the students and get to talk to all the students one on one. I am sad that this was our last time with them, I will miss it.

May 3, 2008

Today was the Special Olympics track meet. I was not sure what to expect because it was the first time I've ever attended one. I thought it was awesome! Courtney, Ricky, Jen, and I did the shot put area. It was interesting to see the different ability levels among the students. Some of them knew exactly how to use the proper form, and others had no idea how to even throw it. We did not have any problems with any of the athletes, they all cooperated really well. The only problem we may have faced was the athletes trying to talk to us and throw at the same time. They were all very friendly though. I was worried before we got there because I was afraid I would not know how to respond to some of the athletes. Now I do not know why I was worried because every single athlete I interacted with was so friendly. It's neat how just being able to participate made them so happy. They have so many challenges in their lives that they have to face, but yet they seem to be the happiest people. It is awesome how I thought I would have been the one making them feel comfortable and happy, but in reality,