Sarah Purdy ESS 360 March 5, 2009 Teaching Reflection 3

Today my students learned how to move to the beat of a drum. At first, we clapped to the beat of the drum. Some students were having trouble staying with the beat so I slowed it down a little. However, I wasn't too critical about whether they were exactly on with the beat. As long as they weren't clapping too slowly or too fast. They showed that they did know different beats because when asked to perform clap/march/locomotor movements at a slow or fast beat they understood. They especially enjoyed the fast beat. I know my students learned today because from the beginning to the end of my lesson over marching to the beat, the students were doing a much better job at marching to the beat. Some of those who could not clap with the beat were marching to the beat by the end. My rating scale shows that the majority of the class got a satisfactory mark on their marching skills; most of the minuses came from not participating. It also shows all the students getting a satisfactory or above average mark on their locomotor movements with the parachute. Only a few jumped when they were supposed to be hopping. So not only did they learn how to move to a beat, but they reviewed their skills with the parachute.

One critical incident that happened during class was during the activity with the hula hoops. The hula hoops were to remain on the ground at all times, but Tyler kept scooting his across the room and would not stay stop when asked. I asked him multiple times to leave the hoop still, but every time he seemed to be deaf to my voice. The impact from this incident slowed class time down, and it made me frustrated. Having to take time away from the lesson to correct his behavior allowed other students an opportunity to go off task. Like I said, I asked him multiple times to leave the hula hoop in one spot. Finally, he just stopped on his own will and I continued with class. I thought if I did this, he may stop doing it because for a while, I thought all he wanted was attention and he was definitely getting it. I wish I would have punished him by making him sit out for a couple of minutes so he could learn his lesson. I now know to do this and won't be afraid to do so next time this happens.

The main thing that I would change could be the hooky poky. I thought that it was going to be a hit with all of the students, but unfortunately it was only a hit for about five of them. The ones who did not want to participate were the boys, and that does not surprise me. I did work around it, but I wish I would have had a backup plan just in case that did not work. Next time I have a dancing activity, I will be sure to have a backup plan because you never know how students will react to it. I would also change the way I handled some of the unruly kids. I wish I would have not been hesitant or oblivious to the fact that I can discipline them. I would have changed that in a heartbeat, and I bet my lesson would have gone much smoother if I had taken action.

This lesson has taught me the most about teaching. I have learned that I should not be afraid to discipline my students. When Tyler was acting up, it never crossed my mind to have him sit out for a little bit. Now, I know that I can take that action. I have to get used to being a discipliner, although it's probably not fun and it is not a rule I am used to displaying, it's still something I need to do. This lesson taught me not to be afraid to do so. It's also taught me to always have a backup plan, just in case something does not work. For instance, the hooky poky did not work for me today. I regret not having something to do just in case it did not work out. I have furthered my knowledge in knowing that I need to always have a backup plan. Although, some things went wrong today, I have definitely learned from them and hope to become a better teacher.