

Carol Fike

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Today while I was observing Mrs. Christine Russell's third grade classroom some things that I observed I was kind of expecting but at the same time I saw some things that I was not expecting. To my surprise Christine did not spend the majority of time at her desk, in fact she very rarely even sat there. She spent the majority of the time upfront either seated in a chair next to the overhead or seated in a chair next to the lighthouse. The other thing that kind of surprised me that was the fact that the children spend about half of the time that they are in the room seated at there desk and the remaining time seated in the lighthouse area.

To me the room felt kind of uninviting. Even though there was only one window, but I do have to admit that there was a lot of light overall. There was not any carpet on the ground, it was all tiles. However I do have to admit that you have to start somewhere and there is only so much that you can do. You could tell that the teacher had tried to make the room inviting, there were posters EVERYWHERE. I personally almost think that there was too much to look at. I did find the temperature in the room to be comfortable though, it was a good temperature. Also to my surprise the children were actually quite well behaved.

The bulletin boards varied anything from the discipline procedure to the calendar. Along one wall there was also several math posters along the one wall this included a conversion chart, money value, months, and seasons. Then also on each child's desk they had an ABC chart, multiplication table, ruler, number line, and name.

As I looked at the map the teacher seemed to move back and forth between the overhead and the light switch and around up front. The students almost always took the shortest path to get to the light house and back to their desks. So they almost travel the shortest path possible.