

The Reflective Journal: Week 4

It is hard to believe that I have been student teaching for a month. The time has been going by quickly. This week has been a good one. I have learned a lot. Not only have I learned various things about teaching, but I have also learned things that I need to start doing for myself to destress and stay healthy.

My goal for this week was to create a motivation piece to activate the students' prior knowledge. This is the first goal where I feel as though I can fully say yes, I accomplished my goal. Throughout the week, I have been making sure that I have been starting off my lessons with some sort of motivation that engages the students in the lesson and activates their prior knowledge. For example, before one of my spelling lessons, the students had to guess what word I was based on three clues that I provided as the motivation. As the weeks go on, I plan to continue implementing a motivation by planning for them in advance.

My most proud moment was when I told a student that I was done talking about it. The student was repeatedly asking me to move back his magnet and kept trying to explain himself. During the third time he was trying to explain himself, I interrupted him and said we already talked about it and I'm done talking about it. This was my proudest moment this week because he did not ask me again that day. He knew that I was serious and I have been working letting the students know that I am serious.

On the other hand, something that did not go well this week was trying to read aloud with a small group of students to the whole class. When I had a small group of about four to five students read with me aloud to the class, none of us were reading together. This caused me to stop reading at various points because I was not sure if I was keeping the same pace as the others. I think that with more practice and by reading louder than anyone else that way the students have to follow me, I and a small group of students can read aloud to the whole class in unison.

Additionally, on Friday Mr. York was not there and Mrs. Foster, the counselor, stayed in the room with the students and myself. Luckily, this experience was much better than last weeks and I have Mrs. Foster to thank. The students did not try and do anything crazy while she was present. It was nice to be able to teach the lessons with very few interruptions. However, I did give out my first detention ever and then I continued to give out two more by the end of the day. I felt really bad, but rules are rules and the students were not following them. They knew the consequences and I even told the students at the beginning of the day that I would write detentions if I needed to.

Throughout this week, Mr. York and I have reflected and had multiple conversations. One conversation that I thought was interesting was that when I give the class a direction or am enforcing a rule, I start off loud and then get quieter. I thought this was interesting because I never knew that I did this and it could potentially show the students that I do not mean what I say. Therefore, I have been working on my volume and the tone of voice. Another conversation

that we had was about my spelling lesson where the students had to roll a die and do an activity that corresponded with the number. He talked about how he thought the lesson went well and that the students seemed to enjoy themselves. This made me feel good because I thought the same thing and it was nice knowing that he did too.