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SPE 101

Focus Observation # 3

1. Describe the teacher(s) in general:

The teacher that I have had the opportunity to work with are all unique in their own ways. They work with the same curriculum, but it is up to them as teacher to enlighten their students in the classroom. A few other traits that I noticed were as follows:

~ They were always ready to teach. Meaning they always knew what time it was and what was supposed to be going on at that particular time.

~ They were always dressed accordingly to the dress code and to the weather.

~ They were always quick to answer questions and also they were on their toes when there was something that the students were not supposed to be doing or in trouble.

~ The Special Education teachers and paras that I have worked with were always gentle with the child they were working with. They were calm, welcoming, always showed a smile which created a warm, and positive environment for the children.

~ The Special Education teachers were also helpful and they kept their students on task (or always working on something).

~ The Special Education teachers were also very organized with everything from the schedule to the classroom.

1. Describe some of the different instructional techniques that you see the teacher using (lecture, discussion, small group, projects, etc.).

The teacher in the General Education class used group-work or working with one or two partners, questioning, and teaching stations which included topics: reading with the teacher and answering the teacher’s questions, small group comprehension worksheet, IPad educational games, vocabulary/ spelling word practice, writing a small story, and sequencing events that happened in the story they read with their teacher.

~ The Special education teacher used quite a bit of different techniques including:

* Working with a child individually.
* Using a marker board that can record your voice as extra practice for the child.
* Having their students during reading time to sit in a chair and to use the reading guider to help them focus on one sentence as a time.
* Also they used the time out technique in their classroom when the child was not wanting to listen. (One on the kids in the classroom today was almost needing to sit in the timeout square for not listening. The teacher wanted him to read a particular story and he did not want to read it. So he kept saying no to the teacher. Although he changed his mind when his teacher told him that he would have to sit in the timeout square and he would not get to draw his Angry Birds after his lesson.){Both students I got to observe in the classroom were diagnosed with autism.} Although, the two boys were so different from each other they had to learn with a different teacher with only one on one focus.
1. Describe some of the ways you see the teacher handle classroom management issues (i.e. student interruptions, questions, behaviors, etc.)
* The teachers as I said above use a timeout square in the Special Education classroom. I have not witnessed any child being put their yet on any of my visits.
* In the general education classroom the teacher immediately stops what she is doing at the time and fixes the issue before anything gets to be worse. She uses a behavior chart/board in her class that shows students what behavior character they were like during the day. This chart was called a clip up and clip down board. The child started at neutral and as the day progressed they would be either asked to move their clip up or down depending on what the teacher says. If the issue is bad and has the child getting sent to the principle then the parents are to be called to let them know that their child had trouble in the classroom on that particular day they got in trouble. (Only happens in the red zone/ warning zone)
* In the General and Special education classrooms structure is definitely enforced, and the teacher’s make sure they give clear and concise of instruction as they can so that the kids understand what is expected on them to do.
1. TEACHER INTERVIEW QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

~ Number of years that the teacher has been teaching: 28 years all Kindergarten through 6th grade.

~ Degree they have achieved: Master’s Degree

 All including Elementary Special Education dual with General Education, and then the Master’s degree is in Curriculum Education.

~ Most rewarding part of being a teacher is: “I really enjoy seeing all the progression and accomplishments my students continue to make each year.” She also said that some of her students started out in Kindergarten not able to speak and were not even potty trained. And now they are able to speak and are able to participate in all class activities including the play unit their class is starting to work on. Also he is potty trained!

~ Most difficult part of being a teacher is: “Time management, I have to keep track of not only all the students I am working with, but I have to keep track of all of my 7 co-workers and their students as well. Making sure that all the deadlines are made for all the students work for the general education and special education classroom for them to graduate to the next level!”

~ Advice she gave me: “You have to be willing to work hard because teaching may seem easy, but it has a ton of work that comes along with it. Also, have an open mind, for new activities, and ideas form your students, who knows they may teach you something instead. And lastly, don’t ever jump to conclusions, always take each day one step at a time and everything shall go really smooth.”