Literacy Profile

Carol Pippen

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READ 670

Located in the town of Farmville, Virginia, Prince Edward County Middle School is the only middle school within the Prince Edward County School District. Prince Edward school demographics reflect the primary races and ethnicities throughout Prince Edward County. Of a population roughly around 23,000, 62% are White, 35% are Black, and less than 1% are Native American, Asian, or classified as another race. Less than half of the children in Prince Edward County reside in homes with two parents. Of the remaining children, 35% live with non-family members (United States Census Bureau, 2010). Over half of the school’s students (68%) are eligible for free and reduced lunch (Public Schools K-12).

Alexis is an eleven-year-old young lady who resides in Prince Edward County with her father and stepmother. In the home are her brother, half-sister, a stepsister and stepbrother. Alexis has lived with father since she was two. Before that she lived with her mother. Abuse was reported in the home to the children and the mother went to jail when Alexis was six months old. She lived with her aunt from that time until she was two. Her father and stepmother have been raising her ever since. She has been reported to have reached developmental milestones normally, but displayed odd behaviors as a toddler. Physicians said she had a mild form of autism due to head trauma. She is currently under physicians care for ADHD. Her brothers and sisters also receive medical care for bi-polar, autisms, ADHD, and anger issues.

Alexis is pleasant in the classroom. She follows directions easily but is distracted. She is pleasant, kind to her classmates and makes friends easily. At the beginning of the school year, she comprehended reading passages and books on a first grade level. Her reading assessments were far below grade level and her audible reading fluency was on a second grade level. She strives to improve her skill and is motivated to work hard. Her writing abilities exceed her reading abilities. She is able to express herself and likes to write. She struggles with limited vocabulary and organization, but does not let that become an obstacle.

Alexis receives her educational plan with her peers in History and Science. For the contents of English and Math, she is in a small group setting along with six other students. There is a special education teacher and a paraprofessional to support her instructional needs. Alexis works well in groups, partners and individually. She likes to have discussions on reading elements and makes a good group leader to initiate these collaborations in small group. She struggles with completing and returning homework and performs low on quizzes and tests. When given opportunities to redo work or correct responses, she will return work to improve her grade. In the larger classes, she is able to keep up the pace of note taking and class assignments. She does get distracted with talking to friends and may need a non-verbal redirection to return to her tasks.