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SOL Project Reflection

One of our last assignments in this course was to work in a group and come up with a lesson plan to teach a portion of a science SOL to elementary school children. My group consisted of three other girls and we were assigned the 3.4 science SOL. This is a third grade SOL that focuses on teaching children about animal adaptations. We broke up our lesson into four sections. We taught them the material using powerpoint slides and hands-on activities. Our sections were behavioral adaptations, physical adaptations, camouflage, and mimicry. Through the use of the powerpoint we were able to show the students visuals like images and videos which allowed them to see how the adaptations are used by real animals in the wild. The children were also constantly engaged in the lesson by answering questions, giving examples, and participating in the activities set up for them. It was easy to see how much they enjoyed the lesson by their enthusiasm throughout.

While this project was fun to work on, there were definitely some difficulties involved. Our group worked very well together throughout the entire process and broke up all of the work evenly, assigning each person to take responsibility for one section of the project which they would set up in the powerpoint and teach during the lesson. Unfortunately, on the day of the lesson one of my group members woke up with pink eye and could not come because she was contagious. While I do not blame her at all, this was a setback for our group because as

mentioned earlier each member of the group was responsible for one section of the lesson and not having one of our members there meant that we had to figure out some other way to teach that portion of the lesson. Although we did not have much time before the kids came to come up with a plan, we quickly decided that the best option was to break up that specific section of the project equally and teach it together. This proved to work well and thankfully everything went smoothly. Another small difficulty we faced was time because although we worried that we would run out of things to do during the lesson, we actually had to rush a little towards the end to make sure that we got through everything we had planned. We had even created an extra activity for the end of the lesson if we ran out of things to do but did not need it because time was up just as we finished the last of the material.

Our group did such a wonderful job working together and developing ideas but I know that there is always room for improvement. I feel that the powerpoint was nice to use because it allowed us to show the students images and videos displaying the adaptations but if I were to change something I think I would find a way to spend less time sitting and staring at the computer screen. Instead, I would try to make some sort of visual that the children could interact with and touch like a poster board with pieces they could add onto it. I would also want to create some activities that could be done outside so that the students could be active outdoors while learning new things. We could maybe even do a scavenger hunt in which the students would need to find stuffed animals that are using their adaptations to hide and then get to keep the animals as a prize. Even so, I believe that our group did a great job teaching the students and I know that everyone enjoyed it; college and elementary students alike.

This is the second time in my college career that I have gotten to work in a group and teach a lesson to students and I loved every minute of it. Every time you learn something different. Through this project I learned that teaching is so much more fun when the students you are teaching actually want to learn. The students assigned to my groups were three friends who were all very excited to learn and happy to participate throughout. I also learned that I really like teaching children at this age range because they are still at the point where they like school and learning new things. Content wise I learned very little because I already knew a lot about animal adaptations and the differences between behavioral and physical adaptations since we studied them earlier in the semester within this course. I really enjoyed this project and cannot wait to work more with students in the future.