Specific Journal 5: Self Reflection

SPED 327

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 This has been a great experience and I have learned a lot. I learned that I can only focus on the things I can control, that students in one class can be at different skill levels, and how I have grown my understanding of how to motivate students.

 I learned that there many factors that have influenced the development of the students in Prince Edward Schools. Some factors, such as COVID, cannot be completely fixed by the school system. I learned that I can only influence the factors that it is within my ability to do so. The time I was in the school was limited, but I wanted to be as effective as possible in learning all I can and helping students in the ways I knew how. I had to set realistic expectations for myself and learn that I cannot solve every problem, but I can always seek guidance from experienced teachers in the school to handle the problems that are outside my skill set.

 I know that students in special education classroom all have different abilities and performance levels, but I did not expect to see such a wide range of ability in a general education classroom. I saw that many students lacked fundamental skills in the classroom while others were performing near their grade level. This realization and trial and error practices to teach skills at different performance levels was challenging, but I have grown a lot from teaching diversified instruction levels. I recognize that I am not teaching multiple diversified lessons to the entire class like a normal teacher would, but I believe that I was successful in accomplishing that goal with my current skills as an aspiring teacher.

 I learned a lot from the students from Prince Edward County. I learned that everyone has a life outside of school that may differ greatly from their peers but meet in the same place. Knowing that each student has his or her own situations, I have become more understanding of the students. This didn’t mean that I would exempt them from any educational expectations; I simply held the same expectations for each student. I learned that students do not respond to super authoritative teachers and following directions “because the teacher said so.” Once I showed students that I respect them and wish for their success, they started to listen and see me as a resource to help them succeed in their learning. I learned that students can only be motivated by those they have a connection to.

 I am grateful for this experience, and I hope the students are continuing to do well. Thank you for being a part of my teaching journey.