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Lesson Plan Observation

While observing my teacher the last four weeks, I have learned many techniques and strategies that I think would be very helpful. I noticed useful little things while viewing her lesson plans. She organizes her lesson plans by the week. She has a chart with the date, time and the day of the week. She has her routine schedule already typed in the scheduled spot. For example, she already has each subject typed, along with the morning work, centers, and specials, things that usually aren’t going to change from day to day. Then she has a blank box to describe what she plans on doing in each category. Her notes in her lesson book are very short and straight to the point. They are informal but you know exactly what she is trying to say. She writes her lessons in a format where she knows what is going on. She usually has all of her center work printed out for the next week, so she already has a good idea of the lesson she is going to cover, but if she thinks of something she writes it in as she goes. If her schedule changes she will just erase what she didn’t get to. One thing I noticed was she didn’t have the standards posted or written anywhere.

Throughout the four weeks I have noticed that my teacher is very organized. It’s almost too organized. Whenever an event comes up that throws her off schedule, she stresses out. Which I feel like I am going to be the same way, but there are some things you just cant help. I really like how she has her classroom and students under control. Her students respect her and try to please her as much as they can. I feel like my teacher has great classroom management skills. She relates real life situations to what we are learning in class. She tries and gives the students incentives and goals to work for throughout the week. For example, she motivates the students throughout the week by rewarding the students with Fun Friday. If students are working hard all week, the students who have completed all their work get to attend Fun Friday. Even though it’s “Fun Friday”, she still makes it educational. Last week the theme of their book was ants and the students had been learning how to solve addition and subtraction word problems. My teacher incorporated ants and math into a lesson. She each student get a pretzel, which was suppose to be a “log”. Then she gave each student a handful of chocolate chips with a word problem that said 5+3. The students would place three chocolate chips on one side of the log and would have three on the other side. Then they would have to come up with a word problem, (there were five ants on a log and three came along, now there are eight ants). Once they came up with their word problem they got to eat their log and ants. The students loved this activity because it was something besides just sitting in their desk and it involved food! The students usually love anything that involves groups or anything that gets them out of their desk, especially in first grade. I think Fun Friday is a great incentive for the students to get their work done because other wise they know they will be stuck at their desk working on work that they didn’t finish.

They have a grade level meeting once a week. The two grade level meetings I have been able to attend have been productive and very useful. The grade level teacher went over minor problems about the bus riders getting out to the bus late. The teachers came up with a solution and moved on. A few of the teachers had really good ideas about lessons, so they shared with the other teachers. This grade level group seemed very close and respectful for one another. They all seemed very comfortable sharing their ideas and the other teachers had great feedback. Usually my teacher and a couple of the other teachers use the same activities and lessons. I like how they share their ideas and try to make their lesson better. It’s interesting to watch how excited they are when they come up with a good lesson plan. They are so anxious to see how the lesson will turn out.