***SPE 101 Practicum Observations***

***Nicole Moore***

*November 19th 2013*

Kindergarten- 1 hour

* Child w/ academic delay
* With this child 3 hours a day or more
* Constant reminders
* Multiple charts
* Has ‘recovery room’
* Every 15 minutes his behavior is recorded and if positive, receives reward.
  + (5 mins on ipad, verbal praise, centers, snack, etc.)
  + Working on having it be so paras can be with him instead of special ed teacher

While I was in this classroom with Ms. Hardin the child’s behavior was under control. He participated well in his literacy group with few reminders and received 5 minutes on the ipad.

Once it was time for us to go to another classroom he seemed fine. 10 minutes later she got a call on her walkie to go back to the child.

He had gone to the bathroom and was washing his hands and then ran into the gym, ignoring the 2 paras with him. So we had to run to the gym.

When we arrived, one of the paras (who is certified and had permission) had her arms around the child because he was lashing out. Ms. Hardin then had to grab his feet because he tried to kick. He then had to be taken to what they call the ‘Recovery Room’, which is just a small empty room across from his classroom. Once in the room, there’s a whole routine that he must go through to prove he ready to go back to his class.

*November 20th 2013*

Today the teacher that I observe was sick, so I got to follow another special education teacher. She was assigned the same kindergartner that I observed yesterday. The boy was very well-behaved today. He only had to go to his safe sit once and cooperated.

While I was there they were working on stories. They were just paper books that were stapled together. They colored them and then were assigned little groups to read them in. I worked with a group that had a little bit of trouble with reading. Some were better than others but overall they did well.

*November 21st 2013*

Ms. Hardin was back today. The kindergartner she is working with was having a very hard day. He had earned very little rewards and tried running from his classroom multiple times. This meant that he had to also go to the Recovery Room a lot. When I got there in fact, he was in the recovery room. His shoes were outside of the room because he had taken them off and threw them at the ceiling. After about an hour, he finally did what he needed to do to show Ms. Hardin that he was ready to go back to class. He sat criss cross applesauce, hands in his lap. Then once he shows he is ready he has to do a worksheet to prove that he is ready to work. The worksheets are very simple and finishes in about 3 minutes.

*November 22nd 2013*

I was only at practicum for about an hour and a half today. They were writing short stories about Thanksgiving. They were to use the word along with feast, pilgrims, Indians, and turkey. Then they were to draw a picture that helps describe their story. Most of the students can write very well. There are a handful that still do not know all of their letters and struggle with writing in general but they do not qualify for any special education help. All of their stories were very cute and they knew a lot about Thanksgiving that they had learned earlier in class.

*November 26th 2013*

Today I not only got to work with Kindergarten but also 2nd grade. The Kindergartners were to pick out two of their stories that they had written and were going to share them with their reading buddies, which is a 3rd grade class.

The second grade class I got to observe and help out were also working on writing. The group that Ms. Hardin works with has difficulty with it. She told me beforehand that two of them had autism, one has ADHD so he can’t really focus, and one has a language disorder. She let me work with the boy who has ADHD. He had a hard time figuring out what he wanted to write about and once he did, he would write like two words down and then tell me a story completely off topic. He also was very antsy in his chair. He kept moving around a lot and would sit up and then sit down.

*December 3rd 2013*

I worked with Kindergarten today at practicum. Now that it is December they are starting to talk about Christmas and other related holidays. The teacher read them a book about Christmas, Kwanza and Hanukah. Then the students were to share one of their own traditions that their families do around the holidays. They all sat in a circle and were to go around one at a time and share. Some got really excited and starting interrupting and blurting out but the teacher handled it very well. She would say “This is her/his time to talk. You will get your turn, please be patient and listen to your friend”.

*December 4th 2013*

First thing today when I arrived at practicum I got to work in the learning center with the group of second graders that I previously met. This time they were doing little research stories. Each student had 2 books about an animal of their choice and had a paper with 4 little boxes one it and lines underneath. On each line they were to write a sentence/ interesting fact about the animal they chose. In the boxes they then drew pictures to help describe what they wrote. They all turned out very cute.

*December 5th 2013*

Today in the second grade class they were focusing on writing again. They all had to write 3 to 4 sentences starting with “Once I was a turkey but now I am a…” I got to work with a boy who I got work with has a difficulty with writing. He writes some of his letters backwards and has trouble with sounding out the words and spelling them. He has a little booklet that if he doesn’t know how to spell something, he has a teacher write the word in it for him. This way he can see for himself. It worked really well and he was able to spell the words that I wrote for him to copy.

*December 6th 2013*

Today was my last day at practicum. Today in the kindergarten class there reading buddies were coming back in again to read to them. Today was special though because once a month everybody in the school gets a little bag of popcorn while they do their guided reading. It was also one of the students birthday. So it was a day of celebration in a way. I got to read with multiple students and it was really fun.