Jennifer Ortiz

SPEDE 777

Journal 1

As I enter my final semester at Hunter College there are a few goals I have developed with this forty-day student teaching experience in mind. I would like to become more familiar with the common core standards and methods of implementation because these are at the center of education. I only have experience teaching in a TEACCH 8:1:3 preschool classroom therefore my knowledge of the other grades and classroom types is limited to what I have learned throughout the program. However, as I venture into the public school system this semester for my placements I wish to explore and better understand the reasons and effectiveness of different classroom types. Particularly because I will have to write IEP’s and give recommendations for placements because truthfully what good is an uninformed recommendation. I also want to become for familiar with the academics in Kindergarten through second grade. In the preschool program the level of instruction was limited because of the behavioral management required and the children’s cognitive functioning levels. Already, in my two days at my placement I have seen such a vast difference in instructional material and technique and look forward to expanding my knowledge in these areas.

Once I am finished with my degree and have earned my certification I would like to begin my teaching career in a public school in the Bronx. When it comes to education and my motivation for entering the profession my upbringing has significant impact on my reasoning and passion for the field. I am a product of the Bronx, the public school system, gang-ridden schools and drug filled streets with violence always hitting far too close to home. Aside from a strong parental foundation and home life I was always swept under the wing of my teachers. It because of these teachers I have encountered throughout my life that I developed such a passion for the field. I too want to provide a second home, a resource and a place where ones full knowledge and potential can be obtained through nurturing and instruction. Eventually I would like to return for a Ph. D in Behavior Analysis and possibly become a behavior analyst for the school system and perhaps an instructor for upcoming teachers.

As a prospective classroom teacher I feel that having a well-managed classroom is vital to effective instruction and safety in the classroom environment. There should be clearly identified and revisited rules that call for revision as the school year continues and new and perhaps unforeseeable scenarios arise. The rules should have an identified consequence if they are not followed. Also an invaluable quality of an effective special education teacher is the ability to self reflect and evaluate ones methods of instruction and management regularly in order to constantly transform into a more well rounded teacher. As an educator we are lifelong learners and that learning process never plateaus because every child is different, learns differently, and comes from differing backgrounds.