

This week in practicum, I taught a math lesson on problem solving.

Things I think went well:

1. Students were actively engaged. They enjoyed the pre-activity (figuring out the word puzzles) and the assigned math work.
2. There was an active math buzz about the classroom. The students were all chatting about math and actively analyzing and discussing the math problems.
3. Everyone finished their work! I did not make too many questions mandatory, because I know that not all the students can do too many questions in twenty minutes, therefore all students were able to achieve what I assigned (feeling accomplishment) and some did the "bonus" work (giving those students more challenges and work to fill the time).
4. The questions and the critical thinking they were coming up with were great. I could tell when walking around and listening to discussions that they were actively thinking of how to solve the problems. They were not just going through the motions to get the assignment done (I know some were, I am not that naive) but most were definitely actively constructing new understandings.

What I think needed improvement:

1. My definitions changed from my lesson plans; I could/should have followed it better.
2. The closure part of my lesson got a bit confused. I did not confer with Mindy well enough to know that they would instantly take out math books that were bounded which did not allow for me to take papers away to grade. Therefore, I had to walk around and do a visual check of all their work. This caused a bit of talking non-related to math to occur. I did see the group and

diffused them yet it could have been avoided had I planned better for having them work on papers that were not bound into their books.

Overall, I think it was a good lesson. I felt at ease doing it, sometimes nervous because I am not altogether comfortable with math but I prepared myself well for this lesson and work hard at making sure my students will get the best of me regardless. Even when things went astray at the end of the lesson I think I caught onto it quick enough that it did not go out of control.

I hope to spend more time with this class. The more I teach them, the more teacher presence they attribute to me; and the more rapport I develop with them. I feel it more with every lesson I have taught, and Mindy is wonderful at letting me develop that with them.

The words I highlighted reflect your growth as a teacher. Your vocabulary and your observations are those of a teacher. The things you listed that you could have improved on will come with experience and more teaching.

Well done , Susan

Thanks

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