

Professional Development Lesson Plan Reflection

Date of Experience: Fall 2012 Semester

Description of Experience:

During my time as a professional development student at Iowa Grant Middle School, I had the opportunity to reflect on the lessons I taught as well as have my professors observe me and provide me with feedback. This experience was crucial in helping build my ability to evaluate myself and my lessons as well as adjust them for future reference. It also strengthened my ability to teach while being observed and use the suggestions I was given by my professors to help improve my lessons and overall presentation.

Wisconsin Teacher Standard Alignment:

This artifact aligns with Standard 9: Teachers are able to evaluate themselves. *The teacher is a reflective practitioner who continually evaluates the effects of his or her choices and actions on pupils, parents, professionals in the learning community and others who actively seek out opportunities to grow professionally.*

This alignment is accurate because the semester that I spent at Iowa Grant Middle School was specifically geared towards evaluation, reflection, and using my resources to become a teacher. For this particular experience, I was observed by my Professor Sally Stead while teaching an 8th grade Special Ed. Math lesson in my cooperating teacher, Mrs. Carroll's classroom. The lesson consisted of introducing number lines and how to use them. I brought in colored paper and rulers and had each student create their own number line with each fraction evenly labeled on it in order to complete their homework and also to use on their upcoming test. I also used an introductory assignment called a "Math Minute", to get the students focused and on task before we started the lesson. Overall, my lesson went well, but there were several improvements that I would make in the future.

Mrs. Stead provided feedback and a written assessment of my lesson. We were able to sit down and discuss what went well and how I could improve. I was also asked what I would do differently in the future. Changes that I might make include, providing more class time to accomplish the number line, or possibly including the Art teacher in making straight lines. This seemed to be difficult for them, but would be an opportunity for collaboration within the school. Some of the students had to take their number lines home and finish them as homework, which I saw as potentially problematic because often time's parents are not aware of the assignment and therefore ill-equipped to help. There is a chance that there may not be a support system for homework at home as well, so I like to utilize class time to accomplish those things.

As a teacher, I plan on using the internet and the school website to keep parents and staff informed on what we are doing in my classroom so that they are able to provide assistance when

necessary. I think this is especially necessary in a Special needs classroom where the students need extra assistance. I found the importance of reflecting on my personal lesson during this and the benefits of using constructive criticism from people who have more experience and knowledge than I do regarding teaching. As a future teacher I plan to use a journal to constantly reflect on lessons and what went well and what could be improved for future classes. This will not only help me to be organized, but it will benefit my students and their clarity of the lesson and parents will see me being a proactive educator who is able to be flexible and positively respond to critiques, feedback and observations. Reflecting will help me develop and grow as a future teacher and constantly better myself through learning from mistakes and adjusting to them.

This artifact further aligns with:

Standard 4- Teachers know how to teach.

Standard 7- Teachers are able to plan different kinds of lessons.

UW-Platteville School of Education Knowledge, Skill, Disposition Statement Alignment:

This experience aligns with KS4.e *Reflects on Teaching*. This alignment is accurate because I was able to use my experience in teaching an 8th grade Math lesson to reflect and evaluate myself and my abilities. I determined what went well during the lesson, in this particular case, the students were actively engaged and participating. I also determined what things I would change such as time management for creating the number line in order to avoid homework. I then reflected based upon the feedback I was given from both my professor and my cooperating teacher. Using their ideas and constructive criticism allowed me to consider changes I would make for future assignments, not only in Math, but in all subjects and in my teaching style in general. Constant reflecting is an important tool to use as a teacher in order to improve both yourself and your lessons as well as your students.

Secondary Alignment:

KSD4.e *Grows and Develops Professionally*. The candidate is aware of opportunities for professional development to improve content knowledge and pedagogical skill and can take an active role in assisting other educators.

Personal Reflection:

What I learned about teaching/learning from this experience

During this experience I learned a great deal about the importance of being honest with myself in order to grow as a teacher. I learned that in order to create stronger lessons I need to reflect upon my current work. Not only do I need to reflect to strengthen my weaknesses, but also to acknowledge the strengths in my lesson. I also learned during this experience that it is beneficial to take constructive criticism from your colleagues and try and apply that in the classroom. For example Mrs. Stead suggested that when I give an instruction in my class that I make sure the students actually do it. This is something that would better my teaching style and the lesson. Often times others can see things that you cannot. I learned that by having written reflections it will be easier to look back at which lessons worked and which ones did not, as well as changes I would make in the future. This will help me to be more organized and efficient in my classroom. It will certainly benefit me, but my overall hope is that it will benefit the students in a great way.

What I learned about myself as a prospective educator from this experience

I learned that as a future teacher I need to be able evaluate myself and have others do so, including my students. I learned that feedback is beneficial whether it is positive or negative. I learned that reflection should be a part of my everyday routine as a teacher throughout my lessons. If I keep documented reflections on my lessons I will have a better understanding of what worked and what did not. I will be able to easily make changes for my future classrooms. I learned that the first time you do something, it will not always be perfect and that is okay! There is always room to improve and suggestions given from colleagues should be taken seriously and attempted. As a future teacher I plan to keep journals, both for reflection and as an outlet to not become overwhelmed when certain lessons do not work as well as I had planned. I also plan to keep folders with all of my lessons that I will reuse or lessons I would like to try. I learned that it is important to include my teaching colleagues in my lessons as well as considering the parents of my students when assigning lessons. As a future teacher I plan on using the school website to establish a source for parents to access homework assignments to better understand what we are doing in class. Reflection is a vital tool in the teaching profession.