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ECE 410 (050W): 2nd Fieldwork Report

Through my observation and documenting the classroom environment of fieldwork placement, Ms. Asencio's classroom let me learn a lot about strategies on how to support children's focusing on oral reading and literacy practices. Although the pandemic forced Ms. Asencio to adjusting teaching activities, we still overcame the difficulties to establish a classroom environment suitable for children's development. The child I was observing is a Chinese girl. She has straight black hair, black eyes, and yellow skin. The child took the initiative to introduce her family to me when she first met me. She told me that her mother is Chinese and her father is Mexican. She doesn't speak Chinese, but her mother can speak Spanish and Chinese. I was deeply impressed by the initiative and easygoing nature of this child.

Through observing her words and deeds, I know more about her, which is cognition, language and social emotion. This child's active personality can make her a central figure in the class, and her language can make her be able to express her own ideas clearly, so as to establish a good relationship with teachers and classmates. However, I also found that she is a child who is easily distracted, which means that she is easily attracted by the surrounding environment or people, which makes her unable to focus on the present events. For example, the child must spend more time copying the sentences on the blackboard. Because she cannot focus on one thing at a time, she is always attracted by people passing outside of the classroom, voices, her own hair, or other things that let her stop continuing work. Even though I sat by her side and reminded her to continue, she was still easily distracted.

However, I found that this kid is particularly interested in painting, and drawing or scribbling is a crucial precursor to developing writing skills. Young children will imitate the act of writing by drawing or scribbling pictures and symbols that represent their ideas, which is the beginning of a series of stages that children go through in the process of learning to write. The student I observed was in the first grade, and she already understood how to use a few words to form a complete sentence and give meaning to the sentence. According to a writing and drawing of the student I observed, we can see that the child wrote the question and answers, that was the main question in the lesson. Also, she wrote the main character's name "Tillie," the book's title "A Fine Fine School," and she wrote the complete sentence to answer the main question. In addition, she added more sentences, which is the information she got from the book. Such as "Tillies broed and beens do not like wen Tillie gos to school epsep saredays." Although many words in this sentence are incorrect, it does not affect what the child want to express. Also, the student I observed not only write sentences about this book, but also draw this picture according to their own sentences. That showed the main character Tillie going to school with her classmates, but her little brother was not happy. Painting not only helps the child to have interest in the story and motivation to learn, it helps her to have a deeper understanding and memory of the story, but also can improve the child's attention and make the child focus on lesson.

Through my data of fieldwork, I learned a lot about strategies on how to support children's focusing on language and literacy practices. Connecting these strategies with the readings in our class helps me to understand the intentional teaching and the balanced literacy program more deeply. Also, I can better combine these theoretical knowledge with practice, support students to explore, and stimulate their interest and motivation in learning. This allows teachers to clearly set learning goals for children and adopt strategies to help children achieve learning goals, so that they can make better progress.

In sum, through fieldwork, I can better combine this theoretical knowledge with practice, which allows me to clearly set learning goals for children and adopt strategies to help children achieve learning goals, so that they can make better progress. Therefore, fieldwork supports me to better understand the research and theories discussed in class.