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Classroom Management Observation

While in the classroom I was able to learn and apply many different classroom management techniques. I think everyone's first thought about classroom management is, it is going to be easy. My initial thought was that the teacher just had tell the children what to do and they are going to listen to what you say. I have worked at the BLAST afterschool program, with elementary aged children, for 5 years. During my time at BLAST the children have always seem to listen pretty well when there were asked to do something. But being in a classroom is much different than teaching an afterschool program and I learned fast.

The first few days of practicum were very difficult to get used to. I was trying to learn about all the children's names and some other important things about them, but at the same times I was also trying to control the children and provide them with instruction. I learned that classroom management is actually very difficult to do. After the first two days I talked to my classroom teacher about different my frustration with classroom management. I found it very helpful and she also gave me very good advice in telling me that the one thing she believes every teacher will always work on is classroom management. She talked about a couple of different strategies she used in her room.

Some of the strategies that my classroom teacher uses in her room were:

- Roughrider three, where the teacher holds three fingers in the air and the children respond by also hold three fingers in the air and waiting quietly for instruction.

- Different attention getting sayings like “1, 2, 3, eyes on me, and the students respond with 3, 2, 1, eyes on you or “Macaroni and Cheese” Students: “Everyone Freeze”.
- A behavior chart is also used where the students are told if they are misbehaving that they need to change their tickets. They have different colored tickets on a chart and each time they change their ticket it is a different consequence. The first time is a warning, second is recess, third is a note home to their parents, and fourth is the principal.

The students seem to respond very well to the different strategies very well. Once I started to use these different strategies the students actually started to listen and respond better, too. I found it very rewarding to be able to show better classroom management techniques. I also hope to improve my classroom management techniques the next full week of practicum.