

Mountainland Head Start Rotation: Rosie the Rainbow

Teaching a miniature lesson at Mountainland Head Start was a lot of fun. It impacted my personal life by reminding me that I love pre-school-aged children but struggle with disciplining them. It impacted me professionally by teaching me a few tips of how to reach children of this age that I can use in my professional career such as teaching simple, interactive lessons and targeting parents to reinforce lessons that are taught. The Head Start Program is overall an amazing program. It has the advantage of being organized and nurturing but the disadvantage of having an unrealistic teacher to student ratio.

This opportunity affected me personally by reaffirming to me how much I love to work with this age group and also that I struggle with discipline. They never fail to make me laugh and to impress me with their willingness to trust and love. However, I struggle with discipline and where to draw boundaries with children of this age group. Whenever they misbehave I think it is hilarious and so fail to discipline effectively. Teaching a lesson to children of this age reaffirmed that I struggle with this.

This opportunity also affected me professionally as I learned some good tips and skills that will help me to teach this age group such as: teaching simple, interactive lessons and targeting parents so they can ensure reinforcement of the lessons given. Knowing if the children absorbed any of the information I taught was pretty difficult. Although the children enjoyed the activity, I am not sure if they will remember anything other than how fun the activity was, even though the lesson was very simple. My lesson was also extremely interactive and this really helped the children to pay attention. They loved being able to touch the fruits and vegetables and put them on the board. Teaching simple, interactive lessons seems to be the best way to help children of this age to pay attention. Repetition also may be the key to teaching this age group. As I was leaving, one of the teachers suggested that the class build their own Rosie Rainbow and fill her in with pictures they find in magazines and on packages in their homes. This will help them to remember much more of the lesson I taught and connect it with fruits and vegetables. Because this is often difficult in a professional setting, I will have to target the parents more and get them to help the children apply what I teach them. All in all, I learned to teach simple, interactive lessons and to follow up with teaching parents so they can reinforce the lessons in their homes.

The Mountainland Head Start Program is actually very organized and nurturing but has an unrealistic teacher to student ratio. I was amazed with how organized the mealtime was. All of the children knew the general gist of what was happening and orderly went from one task to another. Each child was very obedient to the teachers, something that only comes through consistent practice and patience. I was also impressed with the nurturing atmosphere. While I was in the classroom, I observed them highlighting a child. They said it was her day to be special. She got to show off one of her favorite toys and then the children all sang a song to her about how special she was. This happens once a day and helps the children to value one another and become friends. This is only one example of the nurturing environment I found there. A disadvantage of the Head Start Program is the unrealistic teacher to student ratio. There were three teachers to one ten-member class. This is giving the students much more individual attention than will be possible at any other time in their scholastic careers. I wonder if this is a bad thing because it may discourage them later when they do not receive this level of attention.

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All in all, I highly enjoyed my experience and will carry the lessons I learned with me into my personal and professional life.