

Brooke Scoville

Speice

Independent Study and Mentorship

20 December 2018

Changing Behavior

Assessment 11 - Interview

Name of Professional: Gayla Nicholas

Profession/Title: Teacher

Company: Izetta Sparks Elementary

Date of Interview: 12/12/18

Works Cited:

Scoville, Brooke, and Gayla Nicholas. "Informational Interview." 12 Dec. 2018.

Assessment:

The interview conducted with Mrs. Gayla Nicholas at Izetta Sparks Elementary was a very informative interview based upon discussions over the behavioral aspects of the teaching industry. Discussing these topics with Mrs. Nicholas provided additional insight into the many, varying aspects of the teaching industry.

Discussing behavioral issues with Mrs. Nicholas was very beneficial to gaining a more well rounded understanding of how to deal with children and how this topic is especially present in kindergarten classrooms. Mrs. Nicholas explained how when children come into their first year of schooling, many signs of social disorders, anger issues, and other problems along those lines present themselves. Because they have not yet been identified, it usually falls on the teacher

to identify these issues and coordinate with parents and the Special Needs program to work out a plan to help this child. Learning about how difficult it is to make sure every child is getting the attention they need and signs like this aren't being overlooked was eye opening. The connection between behavioral cues and teaching was not new information, however the imperativeness of being able to identify these signs in a timely manner was something that had not been previously considered. This reinforced the overall importance of kindergarten education to childhood development and every child's success or failure in the future.

The necessary skills to become a teacher were also discussed. Mrs. Gayla Nicholas stated that some of the most important qualities a teacher can have are patience, compassion, and a love for children. Additionally, she said that one thing that makes teachers leave lasting impacts on student's lives is their ability to make children feel special and get to know them. These qualities all correlate to different aspects of teaching. Some are based towards developing social skills such as being compassionate and others are based towards education such as being patient. One thing Mrs. Nicholas said was especially intriguing. She said that teachers have to learn how to deal with frustration. She talked about how you can be consumed by frustration over a multitude of things in this job. She said you could be frustrated over testing standards, the low wage, angry parents, rowdy kids , or other things. She then proceeded to tell me something that I had heard in a lot of my interviews, "The benefits outweigh the negatives." Many teachers believe that the benefits that come from teaching such as getting to see students learn and being instrumental in helping them get to their "aha" moment is far more important than any of the negatives that come with the job.

The interview conducted with Mrs. Gayla Nicholas at Izetta Sparks Elementary was an incredibly beneficial and educational experience. Not only were the different aspects of the teaching industry discussed such as behavioral issues and social cues, but also, a better understanding of what it means to be a teacher and what to prepare for was also talked about. This interview will be very helpful later on when talking to other professionals and creating the original work.