

Brooke Scoville

Speice

Independent Study and Mentorship

15 November 2018

Learning to Teach

Assessment 9 - Interview

Name of Professional: Michele Weeks

Profession/Title: Teacher

Company: Sparks Elementary

Date of Interview: 11/14/18

Works Cited:

Scoville, Brooke, and Michele Weeks. "Informational Interview." 14 Nov. 2018.

This interview was a very eye-opening experience into the field of teaching. Speaking with Mrs. Weeks about the requirements of teachers, the different aspects of the job, and her own personal experiences in the field provided additional avenues to look into when researching early childhood education this year in the Independent Study and Mentorship program.

Discussing the many requirements of teaching with Mrs. Weeks exposed me to a side of teaching that had not been previously considered. Discussion over the importance of noticing social and behavioral cues in students was eye-opening into the unnoticed responsibilities of teachers. Realizing the added responsibility teachers are tasked with, in order to be good at their jobs, was something unexpected. Mrs. Weeks said that teachers have to be able to be a friend, parent, teacher, and therapist for their students in order to understand how to teach them and to

build a relationship with them that makes them enjoy learning. This added responsibility is something that will be perfected with time, however there are many aspects of this that will require additional research such as social and behavioral cues associated with children and how to deal with those in a classroom setting.

Another item that was discussed throughout the course of the interview was the increasing level of education required in order to become a teacher. Mrs. Weeks speculated that by the time I am going to college for early childhood education, it will be necessary to be certified in programs such as the English as a Second Language program, the Gifted and Talented program, and the Special Needs program in order to get a job. These are all additional requirements of teachers now that will only become more apparent with time. This provided a better idea of the career outlook for teachers and what to expect and focus on throughout this year in the Independent Study and Mentorship program.

Discussing different teaching techniques provided incredibly useful information to utilize later on while completing the original work. Discussing how students all learn differently such as the differentiation between tactile, auditory, and visual learners was a great example of how to plan out different lessons plans to suit different learning styles so all students have an opportunity to learn. Additionally, discussing how to deal with different skill levels within the classroom provided valuable ideas to consider when planning out lesson plans and time needed to teach each topic.

Discussing all the different aspects of teaching broadened the previous idea of what a job in early childhood education would entail. Learning new things such as the additional requirements that are expected of teachers today and will be expected of teachers in the future

provided a new respect for the complexity of this field. Additionally, discussing what goes into creating a curriculum such as focusing on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills in order to prepare students for testing provided valuable information that can be utilized later on within the original work. Overall, this interview was very informative when focusing on topics such as keeping students engaged in the classroom, the most effective teaching techniques, and the requirements that go into creating a curriculum. All of the items discussed will be very beneficial later on when conducting more research and interviews and also working on the original work.