**My Practicum Experience**

Terri Wilkinson

University of Northern British Columbia

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Dr. David Litz

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During my practicum I really got to put a lot of what we are learning in class into practice. I taught English language arts, French, gym and mathematics. Through 23 lessons, I practiced creating diverse lessons, fostering relationships, classroom management and creating comprehensive plans. It was truly a great experience and my coaching teacher, Mrs.O’Neill was a great match for me.

Mrs. O’Neill had a lot of great resources for me to use and look over. They really helped when trying to create games or come up with ideas for learning and teaching. I did use some online sites including TPT and FNESC. The liberian was very helpful and lent me books, resources and more. She even explained how a Liberian at any school has a lot of resources and don't afraid to ask for help (even had a brochure on it). I think having my hands on so many different easy to find and use resources kept my lessons interesting and made sure everyone could learn in their own way.

One of the most important pieces to my practicum was fostering relationships and student connection. I had an upper hand on this because of my job as an EA and being a parent to a grade 7. I saw lots of past students from Suwilaawks and that made establishing a rapper and reconnection easy. I already know that having these relationships is important and I think it helped. I know that I try my best to listen, pay attention to individual needs, cultivate trusting relationships and really make the students feel heard. I noticed very early that the majority of the students in the class love to draw, make art, and doodle. I switched one of my lessons in English to include a piece on drawing one of the figurative language concepts we were learning and they loved it.

As for classroom management, I followed Mrs. O’Neills lead on this. I didn't come in and change any of her rules or policies. I stuck with what she already had in place. I think having the connection with the students helped with being able to keep things running smoothly. Her rules are clear and posted. I however focused on praising good work, having open conversations and if any issues came I dealt with it calmly.

As I mentioned I focused on English language arts, French, gym and mathematics. In English language arts I taught figurative language concepts with fun activities like writing, games, drawing and creating sentences. To show what the students learned they made a book or poster with all the concepts, sentences and drawings.

In French I taught about the human body parts, in French of course. We did matching games, labeled body parts, practiced using the body parts in descriptive sentences and students got to trace themselves in a final project to show what they have learned. It was a lot of fun.

In the gym I got to really show and use my skills in fitness. I loved that I could take my past experience as a PT and fitness instructor and incorporate it into gym class. We play a lot of games like dodgeball, volleyball, and basketball. I was able to add a fitness element into each game. For example if they were out in dodgeball they had to do push ups or squats to get back in. It was a lot of fun (maybe more for me haha) and the students really enjoyed it.

In mathematics Mrs. O’Neill was wrapping up a unit in graphing, tables, charts and algebraic equations. I gotta see her do review on the unit with games, lots of group practice, matching games and more. It was really helpful in getting ideas on how to teach math in a fun way. I also got to see how she would plan and implement a quiz to wrap up the unit. After the quiz we moved on to the area and circumference of a circle. I got to teach these lessons. With being able to see how Mrs’ O’Neil did the last unit I was able to come up with lots of fun ways to start this next unit. I planned worksheets, partner matching games and a lesson on measuring real world examples of circles. It was a lot of fun.

Overall the practicum experience was a blast. I got to put what I have learned in class into practice, connect with students and my practicum teacher and learn what it is like to teach in a classroom. I feel better about myself as a teacher candidate and ready to keep learning and practicing as the other practicums come.