**Reflective Journal #1**

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EDUC 351 - Curriculum and instruction : Second Language

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Oct 4, 2024

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I have really enjoyed the class so far, especially the content, discussions, activities and the variety of resources we’ve explored. Each element of the course has been engaging and has helped deepen my understanding of teaching a second language. The activities have been practical and thought-provoking, giving me ideas for how I might approach teaching a second language like French or Sm’algyax in my own classroom. For example, breaking down the FNESC curriculum document helped me understand that using scripted curriculum can be a great asset when first starting out.

The discussions have prompted me to reflect on the challenges and strategies involved in teaching a second language, and the resources we’ve reviewed , such as the CEFR and the FNESC curriculum, or the activities suggested, such as 15 min small lessons or games, have provided valuable frameworks for how I might structure lessons in a way that promotes both language learning and cultural awareness. These classes have got me thinking about how I can effectively implement these ideas when I become a teacher, especially in creating an inclusive and engaging environment for students learning a second language.

In reflecting on my experience with a second language, I realize that my exposure to it has been relatively limited. I have never been fully immersed in an environment where I had to actively use a second language daily, which has impacted my proficiency and confidence. I grew up going to school in French Immersion, up until grade 9. I have not used it since and lack the skills I used to have. I have also taken sign language. A friend of mine was 80% deaf and we were learning together, but she ended up with an implant and we stopped going. Now that I work at Suwilaawks I have picked up a few Sm’algyax words from daily learning. Without regular practice or meaningful engagement, my language skills have not developed significantly. I do find myself understanding more than I can express, which as we have learned is common.

I’m looking forward to continuing to learn more as the course progresses and seeing where it takes us over the next few weeks. I’m eager to explore more about language teaching and how I can create an engaging, supportive environment for my students.