

Abigail May

Introductory Statement

Regent University

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Regent University has several objectives that they require student teachers to implement into their student teaching. Though I feel I have implemented them all, there are two that stand out as significant for me. These include: effective classroom management, and student centered technology.

I struggled with classroom management at the start of my student teaching experience, however, I grew in that area significantly as I progressed through my experience. The system of behavior management at my first placement was confusing for me, but I still managed to use it adequately. Having control of the classroom is necessary for student learning, but classroom management is more than that. Classroom management is transitions, going to specials, and managing arrival and pack up times. Once adjusted to the classroom, I felt like I could easily take over and implement the classroom management. I have always felt that I had a good grasp on managing behavior, especially in my past experience as a nanny. Ultimately, I wanted my students to be able to learn and feel comfortable coming to school. I needed them to know that I was in charge, and I wanted them to know I cared for them. My students knew this, and as a result they felt comfortable learning, and learned a lot.

Technology is tough. It is always changing and the children I teach will almost always be a step ahead of me as far as the newest gadget. However, though I may not have access to the newest tablet or smartphone, I know that I will have access to some sort of technology in my classroom. Students need to be able to interact with technology, whether it be a Smart Board or a desktop computer. Future professionals, my students in ten or fifteen years, will be expected to know the basics, and I strive to implement

technology every day in my classroom. I often use PowerPoint presentations and allow students to interact with it. When I was in my fourth grade classroom, I had access to a Promethean board, and almost every day I had my students writing on it or completing math problems. At the start of my student teaching, I struggled letting go and allowing students to take the Promethean pen out of my hands to write on the board. Soon I realized just how vital it was to let them interact with it. It was a great moment for the students when they were given the opportunity to write on the board.

I have learned a lot over the past four months. I knew almost nothing when I entered the doors of Ocean Lakes Elementary. Now, leaving Western Branch Primary, I feel like I could run my own classroom with a strong management system. From a naïve student at the start of this process, I emerge a confident teacher excited to enter the profession.