

Module 3 Self-Determination Journal

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SPED 875: Advanced Practicum with Exceptional Children & Youth

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Teaching video name: Self-Determination Video		Date: 10/03/21
Observation	Meaning	Research
6:28 Jeremiah was able to identify subjects that he is good at, but did not identify what helps him when he does struggle in class.	With more support and focus on self-determination, Jeremiah will be able to identify what works best for him academically with time.	“When students are well prepared over an extended period to tell the story of their own success (or lack thereof), they seem to experience a fundamental shift in their internal sense of responsibility for that success” (Striggins, 1999)
9:18 Jeremiah used a strategy to help him write, sounding out the word, but did not think of this a strategy to help him.	Once Jeremiah develops more self-awareness, he will be able to identify more strategies that he currently uses and ones that could help him. Just like teachers need to reflect on their teaching, students need to reflect on what helps them learn.	“If learning through practice matters, then reflection on practice is crucial” (Loughran, 2002)
16:13 Jeremiah clearly identified what he wanted to help him with writing. He did not know the name of the item, but was able to draw a picture to convey what he wanted.	Although young students may not be able to verbally and specifically identify what they need, they are aware of some aspects and can represent what they need in other ways.	“All students regardless of age or disability can be involved in the development of their own IEP.” (I’m Determined)

Self-determination can not be developed overnight. It will only come with time, growth, and self-reflection. This is not the most predominant trait in my students. I believe that this lesson would have been more successful with a high school student, but I found myself being proud of my student. Most of his answers first focused on his interests of video games, but he did have some good insights into his academic achievements and struggles and his social standing.

In the lesson, Jeremiah was able to identify his troubles with writing, used a strategy during the lesson to help him, and identified a specific tool to help him with writing. Jeremiah’s

knowledge of his writing ability and strategies did not surprise me. What did surprise me was his identification of his difficulty making friends. I knew that Jeremiah had issues with this certain student, but I did not think that he was aware of his friendship making abilities. This lesson let me know more about Jeremiah and what he needs. “Self-determination allows young people to make choices and decisions to direct their own lives” (I’m Determined). He needs more social services to help him make and develop friendships. The fact that he can identify his difficulty making friends means that he does have self-awareness. “Reflection is one key practice that has long been recognized as an important and valuable cognitive process, and it continually resurfaces in conceptualizing the practice setting” (Loughran, 2002). Just as important as reflection is for teachers, it is also important for students to develop their self-awareness.

Reflecting on my lesson, I realize what I have learned and what my student has gained. I could have touched more on self-determination and wrapped up my video better, but the lesson was not a failure. I planned to utilize the One-pager and the booklet for elementary students. However, I overprepared on materials for the allotted time. The one-pager from I’m Determined took up the whole time for the lesson, but it provided a good structure for Jeremiah and provided me with more insight into my student’s needs. “When students are well prepared over an extended period to tell the story of their own success (or lack thereof), they seem to experience a fundamental shift in their internal sense of responsibility for that success” (Striggins, 1999). With continued focus on self-determination with Jeremiah, he will take more responsibility in his success and failures. In future lessons with Jeremiah, I will utilize the booklet and go over his IEP with him to further involve him and develop his skills.

References

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