

Ella Dupont

Professor Ostendorf

ED 410-480

16 November 2023

High Expectations

High expectations is something that is heavily focused on within my placement classroom. Being such a young grade, students often may not understand why they are doing things or what is making them do the things they do. So, building these types of understandings into curriculums is important. Our reading and writing program heavily focuses on these expectations for students. These programs include questions to clarify content, check for understanding, and challenge student thinking. In almost every lesson students are asked “why?”. This simple question allows students to process what made them choose the answer they did. Many questions in these programs are structured to be open-ended so the students can use other clues, ideas, words, etc. to help them make their own decision and have a chance to answer. Rather than just having a student answer a question we are often asking “why did you chose that answer?”, “what helped you find your answer?”, “can you explain your thinking?”. These are all questions to challenge the students' thinking but also allow them to process their thoughts. These also help other students see what their peers may be thinking or doing to answer questions. I think these types of questions are really important in an elementary classroom.

The students also almost always have a time to share their ideas with one another. In each reading and writing lesson there is multiple turn and talk questions. The students each unit get assigned new turns and talk partners. This way all students have a chance to think about an answer and share with their peers as well as hear what their peers have to say. Then the teacher

will pick some students to share so everyone can hear other ideas. By allowing turning and talking all the students can participate in a discussion during the academic day. I also noticed that when a lot of students raise their hand to answer a question, I will tell them to share with another student so they all have the ability to talk about their ideas since we would not have time to share all the ideas out as a class. This is so the students are not feeling like they do not have the chance to tell their ideas, because I want all their ideas to be valued. Overall, I think high expectations are shown often in the classroom.