

SUNY CORTLAND MOTOR DEVELOPMENT LAB

PED 201 – Professor Yang

Reflection: Lab Six

12/5/11

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Name: _____

Date: _____

Tasks

A. To reflect on your experiences working with the St. Mary's students.

B. To gain knowledge and insight as to your individual "teaching style" through play and participation.

Answer the following questions to the best of your ability.

TASK A/B: Reflection on experiences working with St. Mary's students.

1. Based upon observations and interactions with the St. Mary's students, describe what you have learned about young children? Provide examples of activities you felt were appropriate. Why? Were there activities that were not appropriate? Why?

I learned more than I thought I would by teaching at St. Mary's. What I have learned from working with young children is that anything can happen, and you need to be prepared for whatever may be thrown at you. Always be prepared with multiple backup plans in case your first plan doesn't go as planned. Also, I learned that young children have bigger imaginations than anyone does, and they will say anything that's on their mind. I was taught don't give them the option to choose, tell them what they will be doing. If you ask them you have a good chance of losing them altogether, then your lesson might go downhill. There were many great activities that were presented this semester at St. Mary's. Some of the best games always had the children moving, and they were always safe for the students. Typically the games that had all of the students working on independent skills on their own, yet as a group, were the most successful. This way the students were always working on a skill and not looking around for something to do. Some of the activities that weren't as appropriate were large group games. These games didn't always involve all of the students because the activity may have had one ball with a few people chasing it. Also, some of the games that involved many people and kicking a ball became dangerous. Having all of the students involved at all times and safety should be the ultimate goal.

2. Based upon your interactions with St. Mary's PRE K program, describe your experience. How was this different from working with the older age students? Did you enjoy working with younger age children? Why or Why not?

I had never worked with Pre-K students until my experience at St. Mary's. This was a new experience for me, but I learned a lot from it. Working with Pre- K students is much different than working with the older students because the Pre- K kids are just learning motor skills. Teaching the young students was like starting from scratch. I had to walk through the steps on how to throw a ball with a student because she didn't know what to do at all. Because I had never worked with Pre- K before it didn't even come to mind that I would have to actually teach kids the proper way to throw a ball. Personally I enjoyed working with the older kids because they already had the basic motor skills developed. This enabled us to play more sport oriented games with the students.

3. During your field experience, each of you worked with children in the cafeteria setting. Describe the fine motor activities you observed. Do you feel that working on fine motor activities is something we should work on in Physical Education?

While working with the children in the cafeteria setting I saw fine motor skills such as grabbing and placing objects in a specific manner. When I say this I am referring to watching students play with Legos. The group of children had to use their fingers to grab a Lego and then place it on top of another one. I do believe that fine motor skills should be worked on in Physical Education. When you break down the basics of a movement, that movement becomes very specific. For example, if you break down the basketball dribble, the students will be using their fingers to bounce the ball the proper way. Then the students go to another subject and have to write, they will be using their fingers which is the same fine motor skill as dribbling the basketball. I believe fine motor skills in the classroom and during physical education are both relevant to each other.

4. Reflecting on your growth as a future teacher, what have you learned from this experience that has given you insight as to your individual “teaching style”. Has your teaching style emerged based upon your experience and interaction at St. Mary’s. If yes, in what way. If not, how else might this occur?

Teaching at St. Mary’s was exactly what I needed to experience to determine my personal teaching style. I feel like there is nothing better than being thrown right into what you will have to work with in the physical education profession. Personally, the first day is the most critical when teaching. This is when you have to set the ground rules for the class because if you don’t or you wait till half way the year, there is bound to be madness. Also, don’t allow the students to make decisions. Tell the students what they will be doing and what you expect of them. The teacher has an extremely limited amount of time to get their point across before the students lose interest in what you are trying to explain. While teaching at St. Mary’s I became more comfortable each week when working with the students. I was hesitant at first, but now I have no problem going up to an individual or a group of students and working with them.