Clinical Reflections:

Anna Garner

Reflection #1

Saturday Art Class

Saturday, October 8th, 8:30-11:50

 This was my first day in any sort of clinical for this course, I was placed in the 1st grade room. We had three other 201 students in our classroom and a group of higher art-ed classes that were guiding the class. We had little time to prep before we had to go get students from the dropoff spot. Once we got our students they were all very shy and quiet. We started off by telling everyone our names and trying to do some small talk. We were all placed with a student and started teaching them about identity. I was in a group with another 201 student and our first grader. We started the lesson talking about identity. What makes us up, they provided examples with their bodies traced and the body filled with different parts of themselves. Things like family, music, friends, soccer, food, and other things that bring them joy or are a part of themselves. The students got a piece of paper and we traced their bodies on the page, our student was apprehensive with how he wanted his outline to be. Some of the other students decided to do their outline as a mermaid, or fill it with different things that they liked. Our student ended up filling his with different states that he and his family had been too. The students used oil pastels, to color the outlines of the body in. After we had done that for a while we circled back into our group and they had another project for them to start. The students were given a bag and told to decorate it in a specific way that matched up with their identity. I think that the students really liked this because it allowed them to do things in a 3D way and it made it a lot more interesting that they could wear this piece that they were working on. They were given a number of supplies and told to just do whatever felt right. The supplies given were things like streamers, beads, yarn, different colored construction paper, markers, crayons, and feathers. My student didn’t really want to work on the project and decided that he would rather make bracelets with the beads. I think that the projects that the art students presented were perfect for the age group and offered them a fun level of creativity in working with different mediums. I think that it expanded their brain in what art has the capability of being, and doing. We wear art everyday, and we can not truly see ourselves/ our identity without art. It is a vital part of all of us. The goals for the first day were to be able to get a chunk done of both projects. I think that every student got a little bit done of both projects, but it is hard to accommodate students that didn’t feel like drawing in the outline on the first day. I think everyone was working at a steady pace to get their things done within the time available. I think they wanted the students to be done with the body outline project within the first class, but I think they saw that students weren’t going to be able to finish them, so they wanted them to be able to continue working on them in the next class.

Anna Garner

Reflection #2

Saturday Art Class

Saturday, October 15th, 8:30-11:50

 This week I was paired with 6th graders, who were working on finishing up their weaving projects. They had planned their lesson around recycling old or out of fashion clothing items. They talked about how a lot of waste that the world has is old clothes. All of the students had pretty much gotten their projects done. They had to weave a few more pieces of fabric into their loom, but other than that they had a lesson on how to tie off their loom, and how to attach a hanging rod if they wanted to hang their piece. They talked a lot about the way that these projects can be used. We talked about doing two separate panels and making a purse, or making it on a larger scale and turning it into a rug or a blanket. The idea of this project is that it was versatile. All the students in the class were able to finish and tie off their projects, and for the students that got done early they had a lesson for students who were done early, they were going to learn how to hand weave yarn into a hat. There was only one student that finished early enough and they already knew how to hand weave. I think that this lesson was able to teach the students about different ways to reuse old things. The teachers in the classroom talked a lot about how reusing old items is beneficial for our environment and how it is important to be able to find ways to recycle. I think the students were receptive to the idea of reusing old clothes. The 6th graders were very quiet and worked independently very well. Some of them had some questions about how to tie it off, but since I was not there for the instruction portion, I think everyone worked very well. I ended up doing my own weaving project since the students had their own projects pretty much done. I sat in the students' circle and made small talk with them, about how their projects are going, and why they chose the textures/colors they did. The girl that I talked to the most said that she wanted hers to look sort of like a beach, where the yellow or the sand would fade into the water. I think she really accomplished this, by the different textures and colors she used. The teachers of the classroom also had all of their examples in the front of the class for the students to look back to and take inspiration from. I think that this project worked really well for the age range. They had no problems completing their project by the end of the day, and that they all understood the reasons they were reusing old clothes that would otherwise be in a landfill. Also the hand movements of the over under, and figuring out how to specifically tie the scraps of fabric off, provided a challenge for the students but nothing too hard. They were able to think positively about their project. At the end of the day they ended up having a showcase for the parents of the students where they went to show them what they had worked on. All of the students seemed very proud of what they had accomplished and wanted to keep doing things like this that are good for the environment.

Anna Garner

Reflection #3&4

Metcalf

Monday, October 24th, 2:00-3:00

 This was my first time at Metcalf, I started in 2nd grade. They were working on watercoloring two pages in their sketchbook and cutting one strip,and cutting them into cubes to glue them down on a different piece of paper with the initial of their first name on it. I think this project really matched the grade range with it being easy for the students to understand the different steps of the project. The teacher (Ms.Zimmer) modeled the project with a projector and showed them what size to cut the cubes and how to glue them down. Most of the kids didn’t have a problem with what was being presented and showed their skills with cutting and being able to use enough glue for things to stick down. I walked around in this class and talked to a lot of the students about how their projects were going and what they thought about it. Most of them were a little nervous at first but were overall excited to talk and tell me what they were doing. Ms. Zimmer walked around the classroom and talked to a lot of the students and answered questions about the project. She made sure that the class was quiet enough to hear her when she spoke, but they were all allowed to make small conversations at their tables. We had a small break between classes and we discussed with Ms. Zimmer about the class and how they did. I really liked being in her class and I really admire the patience she has for her students. The next class slowly started coming in. This class is third grade, they were working on a puzzle project where they would watercolor one paper and get a piece of construction paper for the back. Once they were done with their water color they would laminate the two pages together and draw on the lamination with expo markers, they would cut on those lines and try to rearrange the puzzle to fit together. There were a number of students at different steps in this process. They were all steadily working and were a lot less rambunctious. There were a number of students in the back of the room crumpling up a ball of paper scraps and playing catch with it.

Anna Garner

Reflection #5&6

Metcalf

Wednesday, October 26th, 1:50-3:00

This day started off with 2nd grade and getting things ready for the students to come in, they all came in loudly with a lot to talk about since halloween was coming up. They sat in their seats and Ms. Zimmer waited for the students to quiet down and wanted their attention on her, she used a couple verbal cues that the students needed to pay attention and keep their eyes up at the front and listen to what she had to say. The students eventually understood and she was able to tell them the directions for today. The 2nd graders were instructed to go get their sketchbooks and grab scissors and glue to work on the mosaic project. For the students that had finished they were able to freedraw. A few of the students went to the back of the room and sat in the ‘creative corner’ with a bunch of bean bags and decided to draw there. I walked around the room and talked to a number of students and helped some students either find a pencil, or a glue stick. I know Ms. Zimmer was doing the same just walking around and talking to some of the students. It was nice that we felt like a team, being able to all work toward the same goal. This class did very well, but left paper scraps everywhere. We had to ask some of them to help clean up after because there were so many around every table. They got ready to line up and she used some different games to get them to quiet down and face the door and get ready to leave. The next class trickled in and we got ready for more puzzles with third grade. This class did very well with finishing their projects and then free drawing. They were all pretty much done except for a few students who were working on cutting their two laminated pieces out and re-organizing them back into the puzzle. I helped a few students try to put their puzzles back together and talked to a few other students about what they were using their free draw time for.

Anna Garner

Reflection #7

Metcalf

Monday, October 31st, 1:50-3:00

I went in on my scheduled meeting time to find out that the 2nd grade class had an assembly, so I would not be able to be in their class. I was able to spend that time talking with Ms. Zimmer about a lot of life experiences and what made her decide to choose elementary school. I really admire her and the way she handles herself as a teacher. We talked for the first 30 minutes and then we started to get the class ready for the 3rd graders. We took out pencils, colored pencils, erasers, and paper. The students started to come in and sit down, they were all very excited for halloween and were excited to leave. It took a lot of time for Ms. Zimmer to get all the students to quiet down and get ready for learning. She had to stop a few students and get them to focus on her at the front. She started instructing the class with what they would be doing today, giving them step by step instructions and little vocal cues within her steps, (like Curly-Q, saying it in a funny way for the students to replicate the same spiral shape she was making). They were drawing pictures of pumpkins and once they had gotten the outline done, they were able to color it however they wanted, they were also told that they could give it a home, which meant a place for it to sit, or a background. A few of the students made them into funny cat pumpkins, princess pumpkins, or made them sit in an oven. I walked around and talked to some of the students about what their plan was and helped a few of them along the way. Once they were done, I helped Ms. Zimmer collects the colored pencils and puts away their supplies. She then called them up one by one to get in line to leave, they were very excited to leave so it took a long time for them to be able to get each of their tables called to go line up.

Anna Garner

Reflection #8

Metcalf

Wednesday, November 2nd, 12:00-1:00

This was my first time being with kindergarteners! They came into the room and were so excited and ready to learn. They all put their bags in the other room and sat down at their seats and were all very excited to learn. Ms.Zimmer and I had talked before the class started that they would be starting a new project today, that might be a little challenging for them. They were starting a project based on the projects of Mc Escher. She had a presentation to go along with it, and started to explain to the students what an abstract piece of art can mean, and how none of his drawings really made any sense and how that was okay. She started to demo the project and show them how to make a stencil for their projects so they could use it multiple times and it would match up on each side. It was really hard for a lot of the students to grasp the idea of cutting a piece of the paper off and sliding it to the other side. I had to help almost all the students with it. Since it was such a big misunderstanding. I think the issue the students were having was that a lot of them wanted to recut some of the pieces once they were taped on the other side, and they didn’t understand that if they cut it, then it wouldn’t fit perfectly and wouldn’t make the pattern.

Anna Garner

Reflection #9

Boys and Girls Club

Friday, November 4th, 4:00-5:00

EMPHASIS

I made an example piece of artwork with a heart in the middle and I colored it red while everything else was in black and white. I sectioned off the different parts of the paper around the heart and wrote things that were important to me in big letters to fill the space. I came in with my example, not sure what to expect but ready for anything. We got to our table and were able to set up for a few minutes. There were only 2 clinical students there that day, and a ton of kids. I was excited to see what was going to happen. When the kids came in they were all talking and laughing and yelling and playing and some of them sat down right away and asked for paper. I quickly realized a lot of them just wanted to draw, there were a couple of them that wanted to do the project, so I started instructing them on what to do. I went through the steps but a lot of them asked me to draw it for them, so I did. I quickly learned my mistake after drawing about 20 different versions of my artwork and about 7 more kids in line to have theirs done. I tried to remind them about what emphasis means. I asked them what they thought it meant, and what it actually meant. I helped them organize and decide what to write on their papers, and went to look for my paper and realized a student had taken it and was coloring it in for me. I really enjoyed this experience because it felt a lot more like real life. Where everything wasn’t perfect, but I hope that I still let them learn something during the lesson.

Anna Garner

Reflection #10

Boys and Girl Club

Friday, November 11th, 4:00-5:00

RHYTHM

This was my second time here. I was a little more prepared on what to expect, for my example this week I traced my hand and used different forms of lines to put on the inside of my hand versus the outside. I figured a lot of the kids would be able to do this one a lot easier than the first one. I was really excited to go in and see all the kids again. I came into the building and there were four different clinical students there. All the kids came in and were again yelling and laughing and excited to make art. A couple of the kids that were at my table last time because I took their projects that they were working on last time, to bring back for them to finish. I had new papers and markers and colored pencils. They were all pretty excited about this project and I did have to trace a few hands and help them pick some patterns but overall I think it went well. Most of the students had fun switching from group to group getting to do different things and use different mediums. I really liked working with this range in age group because each one of them is so different in what they want to do or are capable of. I think I did a good job of picking a broad project for the theme that could be taken in many different ways. I did have to help a few of the students from last time fill in their words and make different sheets. After most of the students were done it was time for them to switch over into a different room. I helped the other clinical students clean up and throw away any paper scraps and helped some of the students put their projects in their bags. We had to wipe down one of the tables because they were using paints so it was a little bit messy.