Sara Olsen

READ 531 Improvement of Instruction in Reading

Fall 2020

Reading Instruction is a very important part to help student’s day to day learning and improving how to read. During this course I had the opportunity to choose appropriate activities that would help my specific student receiving reading and writing instruction from me. This gave me the opportunity to learn and apply so many new practices each day. This helped me find new and creative ways to practice reading strategies. My middle school students loved the new ideas I brought to the classroom. This class definitely pushed me to get out of my comfort zone and try new things. The discussions with classmates helped me get new ideas, ask questions, and learn what they were doing with students.

When creating activities and lessons, I had to analyze and understand what students need and be able to put together appropriate activities. During this class I put together student centered and teacher centered lessons. I had never administered the Jerry L. Johns Basic Reading Inventory. This is a great tool to help guide each lesson with students. During the test, it finds a student’s independent, instructional, and frustration levels. Having this knowledge about a student helps find stories they could practice when we weren’t together and find mini lessons that they need help mastering a reading skill.

I find writing to be a very hard area to provide students with the accommodations. I was able to learn how to use rubrics to guide my instructions. When students are taught how to use a rubric, it can help guide them on where to go with their writing.

Finally, this class helped me bring about so many new strategies in my class. It’s so easy to just go with the flow and do what we have always done. Having the new strategies in my tool box helps bring excitement to lessons and helps students find the love of reading.