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Read 535 Reading & the At-Risk Student

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 Reading & the At-Risk Student help me grow as an educator knowing how to work with students that are at risk in my classes. There are many factors that can lead to students becoming at risk from large class size, to little opportunities for learning outside of school, to negative school environments, no parental involvement in school, low socioeconomic status, and behavior problems. It’s so hard as a teacher to control most of these factors but with the right tools we can help students in these situations. One big tool is working with families as much as you can. The more that students are focusing on working on reading at school and at home is important.

 This class provided me with great resources to use in my class day to day. As a teacher early in my career, I wonder at times if I’m doing the right things. The books gave many strategies that I’m already using in my class. That was very rewarding to know that I am doing things right to help my students improve. For struggling students, pre-teaching is so important. The more background knowledge they can get, will help them through a lesson.

 Many students that I work with have a negative outlook on reading. I want to build that confidence in them and guide them to see that reading is actually a great thing. When I was growing up, I had a negative outlook on reading and then I had one teacher that changed it all for me. I want to be that same person in someone else’s life.

 An area I struggle with helping students is writing. This class provided me with many beneficial writing strategies to help my students. A big take away is writing activities students do should not all be done on the computer. Handwriting is important because they can learn and remember the task more when physically writing. Writing and reading should go hand in hand during reading intervention and if done correctly, the writing activity can help a student become a stronger reader.

 After taking this class, it has provided me with so many new tools to continue to grow as a teacher. Students at risk in reading is in every single classroom. We don’t know what a student’s reading looks like at home. If they aren’t provided with that building block at home, it will be harder for them to succeed at school. With the right early intervention, students can fill the gap - it just needs to be delivered the correct way. I’m so grateful to have the ability to take this class to become a better educator.