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READ 635 Diagnosis & Correction

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 This course helped me reflect on my own teaching philosophy. It also helped tremendously in giving the Woodcock-Johnson and the Young Children’s Achievement Test (YCAT). Being a special education teacher, I participate in many Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) meetings. Having the opportunity to administer this myself and interpret the data has helped me in meetings I attend and to share the information I have gathered. It also helps me when I reflect back on student’s MDTs that I wasn’t a part of. I find giving the test to be very interesting and I enjoyed it.

 After giving all the tests, I was able to debrief and discuss them with my classmates. In their respective districts, school psychs don’t administer the Woodcock-Johnson, the special education teachers do that. I find that that would be extremely beneficial for the special education teacher because they can observe the students during testing. They have shared that they better understand what the students need instead of just reading it on paper. I would love to administer this in my district, but unfortunately we don’t do that.

The YCAT and the Woodcock-Johnson were both fairly easy tests to administer. The more I practice with them, the more confidence I will have when administering the test. The YCAT is great to provide a quick snapshot of a student’s ability. Administering the YCAT takes 25-45 minuets to complete. The score does have to be calculated using the back of the teacher’s manual and that took some additional time because I have never used it before. One upside to using the Woodcock-Johnson is that scores are entered into the computer program and it formulates all of the scores for you.

 Through this class I was also able to learn about different PLCs and how other schools work. I think the Northwest School District does some great things in PLC, but we can definitely improve to make it an even better process. One thing I would like to see be added is freshman mentors to help students make the transition into high school. After seeing the benefits of PLC when done right, it’s so beneficial for teachers and students. My district is trying to get rid of PLC currently and I hope that the board does not make, in my opinion, the horrible decision to get rid of it.

 To conclude, this class helped me in all aspects of being a successful educator and to reflect on my own personal philosophy as a teacher. I still to this day look at my philosophy and it is still true - reading is a vital tool that gives children the necessary skills to live successful lives as confident and informed citizens. Students will try and tell me they don’t need reading, which leads to a talk about how even to read their text messages, they need to know how to read effectively. They don’t always see it that way initially, but then they start to see the importance of reading. This class helped me grow and be able to better meet students’ needs by understanding the diagnosis process better.