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Weekly Reflection

This week I took over the reading lessons in addition to the grammar lessons I have been doing. After a couple weeks teaching these students, I have realized they catch onto material relatively quickly. Even the struggling learners catch on with extra help. Steenrod has an interventionist that pulls the struggling kids each day to work on the same material that we work on in class. With extra support in and out of class these students do catch up and understand the material.

I have noticed with this class how easily distracted the students get. Granted, they are young and around 8 years old, it is not uncommon for them to get distracted and move around a lot. My teacher has built in brain and movement breaks throughout the day, they have a movement break in between math and phonics in the morning. This is usually a go noodle video which takes about 4 minutes but it gets the students up and moving before the next subject. Then there is a 10/15 minute play break incorporated into the morning routine because the mornings are from 8:30-11:55 then lunch. These breaks and pauses in instructions help students take a break and move around. I would like to incorporate an activity like go noodle into my classroom routine because the kids enjoy it and providing them with a break in between subjects creates a smooth transition for the students.

This week we also did a science experiment and the students were really attentive and engaged into the experiment. This shows that they enjoy and like doing hands-on activities. Knowing that these students are young and like to do hands-on activities helps me build my instruction with manipulatives to keep students engaged and focused. At this age it is hard for students to keep doing worksheets and sitting in their seats for most of the day, keeping learning fun and hands on will produce the best results for this class. I incorporated white board work into the grammar lessons this week but I would like to incorporate more manipulatives in my future lessons.