**FINAL ESSAY** Autumn Capizzo

CFE, 4TH HR

The Quote,” Artists are just children who refuse to put down their crayons. ~Al Hirschfeld” is an amazing hysterical representation of my experience in career field experience this trimester because the kindergarten kiddies loved the crayon boxes they had on the middle of their table, and would touch them all day long! In my career field experience class I was required to attend 5 hours a week of student teaching in a kindergarten class, I absolutely adored it and enjoy myself more and more every day, then at the end of the week, I got to write a blog stating my experiences from the week, and what we did as a class with the time I spent there. In my opinion the experience I got from this class was so unique because I got to revisit my elementary school I attended, and teach the youngest class there with my fifth grade teacher. Also, I got to see the ups and downs of teaching all by itself, and teaching very young children. For thirteen weeks I would attend my class every day, and I would either prepare projects for the Kidde’s, or I would do activities with them, such as picking out which words start with whatever letter they were working on (for example, the picture would be a monkey, and the directions would be to color everything that starts with the word “M”). Some days I read books to them, some I went around helping them with worksheets and others we had fun days like Halloween where we did a walk around outside in their costumes. While reflection on my overall experiences from this class, I will outline the difficulties, the very rewarding moments, and what I learned overall.

The first main skill this class has enhanced for me is communication. My whole life I’ve been very shy to talk to others, to get out there and say what needs to be said, and this class definitely had me out of my comfort zone, but in a good way. Although I’ve had this teacher before, it was seven years ago, so I was a little nervous on how our communication was going to go. I had a lot of obstacles to face, one was talking to other teachers when I needed help, most of the time in the teacher room when I had a question about the copier or some machine, and to others that may seem like no big deal, but to a shy person it was very hard to get out of that comfort zone. For example, having gone to this school seven years ago I didn’t exactly remember how the library was set up and worked, but My instructor gave me a list of a couple books she needed, I was very excited to see the library because it was my favorite spot to go in school, but I needed help and I had to ask a teacher in there. It was out of my comfort zone, but I guess that’s really what you need, that one push to get you out there, and then after it doesn’t seem too bad, so the next time it gets a lot easier and easier.

The second main skill this class has enhanced for me is my analytical skill. I’ve never been good with conflict or solving issues, to be honest I mostly run away from issues, so when this children had some upfront and personal, I at first didn’t know how to act or how to solve their problems. Being kindergartener’s most of their fights/arguments were about crayons, scissors, glue, or toys, always saying “I had it first”. While you also want to teach them right from wrong, you have to imagine how many times a day this happens having 20 or so of them and wanting to problem solve. Many times I would ask “who had it first” and they would say so and so did but I wanted it so I took it and then I’d ask them to thing about their decisions and if it was a good and nice choice to take something from someone else. This always ended with them apologizing and all being friends again, also teaching them a valuable lesson of sharing☺.

The third main skill in this class that I would say is main important to many teachers and students is flexibility. The process to be flexible and find something else to do for a lesson, or even playing. Many times equipment won’t work properly and when you have a big lesson planned for the day that requires that equipment, you have nothing left to do but problem solve and find another way for it. Even for the kids, for choice time there are certain stations you can choose from to play in, but some such as the kitchen can only have a requirement of 5, so if they don’t get there soon enough and aren’t part of the 5, many times are bummed but have to be flexible and find something else to do for that time.

This class changed me as a person, simple because when you are around little children all day, you somehow forget anything that’s going on outside of that class, and you become wrapped up in it and enjoying them and their time and teaching them. This class taught me how to leave my problems at the door, and to be myself around all those beautiful little souls. It changed my perspective on the world. Seeing how sweet and innocent those children are, make me want to better the world so they can have a better life. Every single day when I left that class never was there a sign or a moan, not wanting to return the next day, it was always the opposite. I’ve never enjoyed myself more than when I was with those kids, helping them and teaching them their letters and sounds. Never did they fail to put a smile on my face. The moment I will never forget is when a student gave me a hug and said “thanks for helping me, you’re the best teacher ever!” they were always so kind and sweet with their words, constantly giving compliments and just making you feel nice. I would recommend this experience to a friend to really get out there and go see if what you think you’re interested in, really does keep you interested. Even if you aren’t as grateful for the experience as I am, at the end, it would still be a valuable lesson to anyone. I enjoyed this class more than any other class in my life, and I now know, thanks to everyone who helped me out and made this happen for me, I will never be sad on my way to work, only on my way home because of the excitement to go back the next day.