



BPT1501

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Being a Professional teacher

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My Observation

I undertook the liberty to visit Buhlebemvelo Primary School in the area where I reside at. Through this experience I have gained a lot of insight and learned many things that are present in the school environment.

Firstly, I am still a beginner student and had no prior knowledge of the school environment and the process required in order to provide effective teaching and learning within the classroom. The principal was very friendly, she was eager to help me with filling the observation letter and assigning me to a grade whereby I could feel comfortable in. I learnt that learners have different attributes and also saw how they react to different teaching methods enacted by the educator. Learners were obedient at all times, they showed great respect and they always required permission from their educator whenever they needed to be excused from the class or talk to their peers. The teachers' preparedness provided me with a much better in-depth, because it was also pivotal during the lesson since it aided a lot and time could be managed very well and sufficiently. I want to become a knowledgeable educator in the future, and it is evident that this can be mostly accumulated through learning and dedication, knowledge is bred through persistence and sheer determination by an individual, I have learnt that knowledge is unlimited, the vast methods of teaching I saw are evident to this. I was satisfied and amused at how they were implemented, it made me realise that in order to be a good professional educator in the future I will have to adhere to learner's needs and try to accommodate as much as I can because most learners do not understand and retain information in the same way.

I developed a much clearer perspective on educating children, I have always thought that it was a difficult to implement and achieve, but after spending time at this school I have gained further insight and continued to be open to interpretation of different learning environments and try to understanding how they work and yield results. I fear being in the presence and control of a classroom, so as a student, I learnt that as an educator there also has to be discipline from your side, being calm and brave helps in controlling mischievous learners and also helps to identify those who are not participating during the lesson. I will need to work on my fear of leading learners and gain more confidence like the teacher I observed. It is evident that her determination and ability is rooted on the notion that she has been teaching for quite a long time now, and over the years she has been able to accumulate a great deal of knowledge and ways of dealing with problems found in today's teaching profession. I will dedicate much effort as an educator to try and be useful to learner's, be open and allow for them to fully express themselves as it will mutually benefit all parties and fruitfully generate a clear way to enact a good teaching and learning. In this module, I have learnt various methods to initiate good quality teaching and I have also gained insight on the professional teaching world and how to deal with issues that seem to be hindering children and their progress. I have had the opportunity to look at the school environment as an analyst and gather information that will help me in the future, also I have received

a great deal of knowledge that I did not have prior to doing this module, which has been an eye-opener in many different ways.

Technology as a tool to enhance learning

How can technology enhance teaching and learning in the modern world?

This is one of the topics that I really enjoyed in the discussion assignments. Due to technology and innovation being at the height of many things in the modern world, and as a young student myself, I have seen countless times the benefits of using it in order to suffice research or to attain different types of information. Many of the students in the discussion forums provided great responses regarding the topic, opinions and facts varied from individuals and I read a lot of them, seemingly they agreed on technology being beneficial in the classroom environment and to yield good results when it came to teaching and learning. I also agree on the notion that teaching and learning can be aided by technology by being a tool to drive and motivate learner's willingness to learn since most are exposed to it.

Technology aims at empowering the lives of people in many different ways. In this context, the use of technology in the classrooms will prove beneficial to learners and educators. Children are informed in many aspects pertaining to technology and they are much stimulated by it than the normal methods of learning that revolve around lessons being centred around the educator. The use of videos and moving pictures will help develop learners technological desire and drive them to cultivate better understanding of topics being presented by educators.

Discussion forums are a good source of information and getting to find out about other people's opinions on certain topics given. Although with limited technology and infrastructure for most students, they tend to create a backlog as most students take a lot of time trying to understand and get a way to understand the internet and the my Unisa discussion tools. It can be noted that engaging in these discussions helps a lot because we share different information amongst each other and the responses we send each other pertaining to what is discussed are an eye-opener because some people can be supportive of the arguments you raise and others can be very unimpressed and attack your work. As a student and a frequent user of the internet, I think that the discussion forums on my Unisa are not that easier to navigate and consume a lot of time especially having to deal with Unisa website shutdowns on various occasions, it is a viable idea to continue the discussions but on a much better platform than the one currently in use. There are various blogging websites that can be used to engage in discussions and they can be privatised and only be seen by those who are required to take part.

For those students who have problems reaching towns or centres with internet or computers to type their discussions, it proved very inconvenient as the spending of too much money for travel and access to computers meant that the module had

a financial sting on their parts. Some students do not have smartphones, others from rural areas experience problems with the network reception so it creates a distasteful experience for some, but all in all, it gives us a different way to socialize and share information, also promoting our use of technology devices for enrichment, and swaying from thinking they are only useful for social networking and capturing videos and images.

Furthermore, the outlay of learning units is time consuming and wastes a lot of data, which is very costly for some students as they do not possess access to free wi-fi and other means of internet connectivity. It would be much better if all the learning units were put in one hardcopy booklet, this would save money for students and it would make it much easier to prepare for different assignments and discussions, because at times you browse through many learning units searching for a specific assignment only to find it once you have wasted a lot of valuable time. To further make the module more convenient, it would be better if it was a year module so that students will receive adequate time to complete it and be able to pass it. Although the time is sufficient, yet it is not for all, as I have noted on students from high laying rural areas who have difficulties of attaining the required facilities that will help them in completing this online module.

Mind Map

Ideas for effective teaching in the classroom.



1. Always be prepared and plan lessons

Being prepared is one of the major contributing ways to encompass good and viable teaching, it helps promote different ways to tackle lessons and also helps with managing time to effectively deliver the topic to learners. As a teacher, I will draft lesson plans for different topics pertaining to the subject I will be teaching. This will help me in creating meaningful activities for both me and my learners, it will also help me to stick to what is needed and deviate from wasting time. It will also create professionalism and help promote me in becoming a responsible person and to value my job as an educator. Furthermore, it will also show the determination I possess and ultimately yield better results for my learners. Preparing is required in most professions, it is the epitome that drives people to perform their tasks sufficiently and to promote a good sense of dedication within their desired professions. Which is why planning will initiate quality results in education as a whole.

2. Use various teaching methods.

As an educator, the ability to possess more than one teaching method is beneficial to learners and the educator, it helps with eradicating a one-way approach towards teaching and learning and better equips the educator to be a true professional and tackle different matters by advancing and deviating to more solutions which are viable and of benefit to those who are learning. It further helps learners when grasping information, as you find that learners learn best in different ways, it also helps by trying to cater for different learning abilities which are always present in the classroom and yet go unnoticed. The modern era has presented various ways of giving information and which could prove useful for learners, as a teacher in an advanced growing environment, I will ensure that this continues and that I try my best to address learners and give them information the best way possible for them to capture different information and topics.

3. Create a conducive learning environment

Learning is efficient when conducted in an environment that allows it to flourish. In order for it to be meaningful to the learners, a scope of determining the correct learning environment lies on the educator's task to ensure that the environment is suitable and will yield great results when teaching and learning occurs. The safety of the educator and learners is of the utmost importance, checking whether Teaching and support materials will not pose a threat to all parties is one of the measures that can be taken. The state of the classroom needs to be analysed and checked whether it will not cause any damages or hinder any efforts to have a good prospect of effective teaching and learning. The educator is to ensure the safety of learners and make sure that everyone is calm and feels okay during lessons.

4. Enact rules to be obeyed

For most things to function properly, there are rules in place, set forth to cultivate and yield a purpose that is of benefit for all parties. In the classroom, an educator needs to draft a set of rules which will help during the process of teaching and learning. To effect these rules, learners need to be familiar with them and know what they mean and require from them. To have effective teaching, there cannot be any form of lawlessness and irresponsible behaviour that will impact on other learners. The educator is to ensure that these rules are enforced properly and are binding to everyone within the classroom. The educator has the duty to incorporate discipline and get the most out of the learners to take part in the lessons and adhere to rules and instruction being given.

Reflection

Mission statement

Being a professional

I will embark on the teaching career as a dedicated person, portraying all qualities that are required to show a true and professional state in the profession. Being a professional has its roots embedded on showing good behaviour and maintaining a clear and good conduct in the workplace, also ensuring that the true intentions of the education profession are being followed. Furthermore, following rules stipulated by the SACE and South African Schools Act will show a good gesture and commitment to professionalism and ensuring responsibility in the work. I will make sure that all these attributes are enforced always and abide by the rules set forth by the constitution and respect it in every aspect. My interests will be on education and the learners and trying to make learners learn better in all aspects.

Being a community worker

I will be useful to the community that I work on, being a useful community worker means I will empower the children at school and even after school hours if possible. I will show good leadership qualities by helping learners who are struggling during after school hours, I will help them emotionally and educationally, I will listen to them when they have problems and try and seek the necessary help that I can get for them, in addition, I will be a pillar of strength to most community members and represent them on their behalf with regards to school matters which concern them. I can facilitate extra classes for computer literacy and help any youth children from the community that want to gain basic end user skills that can be of use to them and for their future endeavours.

Being a knowledge worker

Teachers are forever learning and grasping new information on a daily basis, dealing with different kinds of learners. I will try and give the knowledge I have attained and pass it on to the children and the community as well. I will become a lifelong learner, ensuring that I receive adequate information in order to keep up in the growing world. I will aid in new knowledge by analysing whether it is suitable and finding different ways of implementing it to learners. With the provision of skills, I will equip myself with profound skills that are beneficial to my profession, by developing strategic plans to deal with certain different issues that will arise. I will develop and aim to uplift the community by passing down my knowledge to those who require it.

Being a resourceful innovator

To be innovative in the teaching world, there need to be new solutions and strategic plans to try and aid in the education and uplifting of learners. As an innovator, I will put more stress into discovering and maintaining various ways that will be of use to the community and myself. I will articulate services, learning, and different objectives that will ensure that the profession of teaching remains one of the true pillars of knowledge and information for the young and future generation of learners. I always try to be creative in lessons by adapting new ways that enhance learner's ability to grasp information, with creativity it helps a lot because learners have their differences and mostly it drives them to reach new levels in their academic quests.

Making a difference

When making a difference, change is required and the ability to alter and make changes to people and their lives is a rewarding feeling on its own. I will try and make learners understand their different qualities and be sure that they recognise them and be diligent in knowing they have the potential to reaching their heights whatever they want to pursue. I will motivate learners into pursuing and going above their limits on the quest to succeed and allow them to be free and creative thinks, ensuring that they do so in a good way that will yield results which are beneficial to them.

I have enjoyed learning in this module, I have gained profound knowledge on what is meant and required in being a teacher. The modern teacher is not just a passive tool for information, but rather a facilitator, who resonates to deliver information using strategies that suit and benefit learners in the world today. The module has opened a lot of aspects of which I was not familiar with prior to studying at UNISA. It is of great essence that as a professional I will uphold the serenity of being human and try to instil it to those I will be working with. I have learnt to work with other people, although I have not met them before, but this module has given me the platform to perform and re-establish myself as a person. Since education comprises of working together and providing a helping hand, it is of the outmost view that I try by all means to work on my future and uplift a lot of people through the use of my skills and passion for teaching.