KTC 93 Final Essay Tiffany

My Future as a Children’s Best Friend

To be honest, I didn’t have any information about the TC course and vaguely registered in this class to get an extra 60 hours certificate for teaching in public school just in case. I was interested in teaching English but not confident to teach children because of lack of experiences and had no idea how to teach kids efficiently and when people asked me to teach their children I politely turned them down but now I can definitely say after spending very precious 60 hours, I have strong belief that I will have beautiful time with children. In this essay I want to share what I learned from this course and what kind of teacher I want to be in the futures.

At first, I learned that the teacher should act first for young learners. I was very shocked just a few hours later after taking this TC class because I thought it is much easier to teach kids compared to adults, however, the way of approach to young students was quite different from what it is for the adult learners and especially it was really difficult to be creative to make kids get interested to get involved in the class voluntarily. The main thing is that adults already have their experiences and they start to think or share their story when they get the topic but in case of children, teachers are not allowed to mention what the topic is or what are we going to talk about. According to the example micro-teaching ‘My Favorite Song’ activity, teacher share his favorite doll after activating their curiosity first and then let students to feel comfortable to share their favorite things. Teachers should be always first to the kids and make students get interested otherwise kids will not follow the teacher. This idea changed my attitude and thoughts because I was worried about the class will collapse if kids will not follow the instruction but now I believe that if I enjoy the class first, little students will enjoy the class too and they will use English easily doing fun activities.

 Secondly, it was great doing activities in a kindergarten environment. As a 30 years old adult myself, I forgot lots of things what I liked or enjoyed as a child so when we are asked to act like a 5~7 years old children, I was not sure what to do or how to behave at the first time. Amazingly, our classmates did very great job acting like kids and I learned a lot from them. Also the professor mentioned many times about children’s behavior when we are doing ice-breakers or micro teaching. So after a month later, when I met real children, I could understand them quite naturally and between me and children on the Halloween at ‘Kangnam Center’, we had a strong connection. On the last Saturday of the October, all the students were invited to the Halloween party held in the Times Media and Jamie teacher asked me to take care of kids and doing some activities during the party. It was a surprised that the little children really acted as our mimic behavior in the class, for example, when I taught them singing and dancing ‘Pinocchio Song’, a 5-years old boy said he wanted to go to the bathroom, the other 6 years old girl pulled my hand to get some candies and some of them followed my directions. If I didn’t practice with my classmates’ behavior like young students, I would be very embarrassed and couldn’t do anything but we had very good interaction and we became good friends during the party.

Finally, many activities and making materials was very precious experience. Our class was only 60 hours but based on the game bank supplement, we had to prepare ice breakers every week so we need to read all the activities. Also we participated in the friend’s icebreakers and it was really useful not only for children but also for adult learners because it is easy to adjust to the class according to who the learners are. Additionally, we learned how to play ‘Two-Headed Fortuneteller’, ‘Fruit Basket’, ‘TV Channel Hopping’ and it was very interesting and I also enjoyed the activities. Above all, we learned how to teach ‘English Song’ and it was very excited to learn from ‘Tea Pot’ song with gestures. Not only from my preparation or teacher’s lecture, but I could also I learned from other friends, for example, how to teach BINGO song with gestures or I listened new song such as ‘Animal Fare’, ‘Pinocchio’ and ‘On the Bus’ which are very funny and easy song for children. Also, the puppet play was very useful because the way of making stage was not as much as difficult than I thought. We made puppets from socks and it was very useful to make kids get interested and also young students will get many chances to make their own story with puppets. When preparing the puppet play, I had to search fairly tale’s stories what is popular for the children and during the search, I found lots of stories and funny videos which I can use next time.

When preparing microteaching, I tried to make the lesson using what I learned from this course to inspire students to get interested using curious materials and let them feel achievement after doing activities with ownership. It was not easy but after doing micro teaching, I feel confident and ready to meet children as a teacher and I will be their good friend. I made a decision to get a job as a teacher just 3 months ago but I was trying to be a good teacher since when I helped my classmates in my school days or teach new joiner at the office. I am sure to be a teacher is a big challenge but I can do well especially I am educated by both TESOL and TC course who can understand not only adults but from the young children and trained using lots of activities. Also, I am very confident to make a lesson plan and I can use it for my real teaching life in the future. It was a great experience for me to learn from a real educator who does love children and taking care of us a lot and I want to be a good teacher like my professor.