Practicum Reflection

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By completing the Practicum Learning Experience project, I was able to create an iMovie using my iPhone to show daily routines and activities performed in my 3rd grade practicum classroom. My iMovie includes pictures of the classroom setting and videos of the students working in groups and socializing. This is a great way to see how students think, interact and work together to complete tasks. This app allows me to provide a commentary of my analysis about the work that is being done. The pictures also include how my practicum teacher has already committed to integrating technology into her classroom. I was able to create and share this product with the permission from my host teacher, parents and students.

This project meets standard 3.3 of the ACEI (Association for Childhood Education International). Development of critical thinking and problem solving, "Candidates understand and use a variety of teaching strategies that encourage elementary students' development of critical thinking and problem solving" (ACEI, 2011). My host teacher stresses a positive environment and my iMovie demonstrates multiple ways activities can be incorporated to help create a welcoming environment. Also having the students create their own iMovie can promote class participation and it is a fun project that improves student attitudes about the curriculum and encourages student critical thinking. There are many tools that are provided with the iMovie app such as the narration feature that students can work with to create the best project possible. Assigning individuals in groups different roles while creating a movie will motivate each student to learn the subject content to earn the highest grade possible.

Technology is involved in almost every aspect of our lives. The one place where we are struggling to adjust to the importance of technology is in the classroom. As educators, we must adjust to the changing times and structure our classrooms in a way that allows for easy integration. "There is no 'one best way' to integrate technology into curriculum. Rather,

integration efforts should be creatively designed or structured for particular subject matter ideas in specific classroom contexts" (TPACK, 2014, p. 62). Creating an iMovie is a perfect chance for students to become comfortable with different technology tools that they will be able to use for the rest of their academic careers. My product also shows multiple ways my host teacher uses technology which can be effective for all grades.

"Technology and interactive media are here to stay. Young children live in a world of interactive media. They are growing up at ease with digital devices that are rapidly becoming the tools of the culture at home, at school, at work, and in the community"(NAEYC,2012, p.2). This project was a very effective way to show the current routines of an elementary classroom. It allows everyone to see the way students interact and how technology is currently being used. Due to the increasing importance of technology in education, this project provides a platform for future educators to find new ways to continue to integrate technology in the curriculum.

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