



SMOKETOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Deanna French was a student teacher in my kindergarten class at Smoketown Elementary School. During this time we used a co-teaching model which emphasized collaboration through planning, organizing, implementation and assessment of student learning. This model allowed Mrs. French to plan and teach units, teaching both whole group and small group lessons and integrate PA Common Core curriculum into the subject areas. She was very successful in planning and implementing lessons for all students as she has a high level of commitment to understanding both the content of what she was teaching and the students she was teaching.

Mrs. French was able to plan and execute lessons in all subject areas. We taught literacy using a balanced literacy approach which includes guided reading lessons, interactive read alouds, small group work, and literacy centers. The learning needs of the students were quite diverse as the student population included English Language Learners, multicultural students, at-risk students and special needs students. Mrs. French was able to differentiate instruction so that all students were able to participate in meaningful learning and feel successful at their level.

Mrs. French started chapter book read alouds, taught small group math instruction and RTII groups all aligned to common core standards. She led the students through a writing project with the end product being a class book for all to see their published work. Her lessons were student centered shaped by data of student assessment including Dibels Next, PA Common Core math benchmark, writing assessment, DRA information and PA Common Core aligned report card data. All lessons were carefully planned out with an emphasis on student engagement.

Management in our classroom was often a challenge as many of our students entered Kindergarten with no preschool experience. Social skills, problem solving, and listening skills were focus areas. Class meetings and student sharing were tools used to be proactive by providing students the skills essential to school success. She attended parent conferences, teacher in-services and weekly grade level meetings. She listened and worked with parents, teachers and specialist in order to implement best practice strategies to maximize student development.

Mrs. French's teaching has enhanced the learning in my classroom. Her initiative brought new avenues of learning and has motivated students. I am confident that Mrs. French will be an asset to any staff. She is knowledgeable and has the skills of a seasoned teacher.

Kimberly Kingsley/Kindergarten Teacher