

K-3 SPED Letters Materials Interview

Interviewer: Please describe the instructional materials that you're using for this lesson.

Teacher: I choose my instructional materials based on availability. A lot of times, because my lessons are repetitive, I want easy access. I want things that the kids see every day. I have my white board, markers and books that I use and reuse. I use them for different things. I might use them for colors, shapes or white paper. Anything that is easily accessible for me that is not expensive. Education doesn't have to cost a lot. Knowledge is free.

I use my computer whenever possible. The kids love the technology so I am incorporating that. The same thing with child proof, a lot of the things, the markers, things like that ... My plastic letters and numbers have been the best investment ever because I have used them for multiple lessons. You just use them over, and over and over again.

Interviewer: Why did you choose these particular materials?

Teacher: I chose them for exactly the reasons that I just mentioned. I can use them over again. I can use them in different lessons, at different times and with different students. I guess from an economical standpoint I can just reuse them and they're great. I can incorporate them in different lessons. The kids can use them. The kids can play with the markers. They can put the words together. A keyboard, maybe not everybody would be able to use a keyboard, however, they can use DVD. They can use CDs. They can find music pretty easily and incorporate it into a lesson.

Interviewer: What is it that you like about these materials?

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Teacher: I like them because I can reuse them. I can use them over and over again. They're not expensive and basically anybody can get them. Actually, if something breaks that's fine. I can substitute very quickly and easily and it doesn't cost a lot. Everybody can use them.

Interviewer: Are there any changes that you would like to make with the terms?

Teacher: No. I don't think ... Often times teachers talk about they need the latest. I don't need the latest because I need to teach the foundations and the basics for my children and those are simple. Those are easily accessible. I need the time and I simply need the basics to be able to create good lessons.

Interviewer: How would you describe these materials as meaningful or relevant to student's lives?

Teacher: The students see them every day. They feel comfortable with them. They actually don't feel threatened by them. They see the markers. They use them every day. They use the plastic A-B-C's. They are incorporated into their life. It's not as though they need to learn

something new by me presenting something new. When I do bring in things that are new often times it is things that we have made.

When we work with our shapes and things like that I will have the students make them. It's often more meaningful. A student makes a triangle. It's not a perfect triangle, but it's still a triangle and they get the basics so they understand. Often times we'll just make our materials and reuse them, laminate them and the kids will remember them.

Interviewer: I noticed they were looking at some of the pictures that had been done [inaudible 00:03:46]. There were things that were student work.

Teacher: The pictures for the A-B-C's?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Teacher: We've done that from the beginning of the year. We've picked a letter each week and we've worked on it and we just ... We'll do our ... First I'll introduce the students to the word or the letter. Let's say it was the letter A. Then I have different pictures and I will present all the A words. Then I will put words that are not A and mix them with the A. Then we'll develop a song based on the letter A and the kids will draw.

[00:04:00]

I purposely ask the children to draw. You'll see by the children that some are able to draw. I know some of them are not able to draw but it's not the point. The point is to have the student participate at whatever level they are able to. That is why I ask them. I know that ... I have a little boy that I know can't draw a circle. I ask him purposely to draw the circle. We will appreciate and like your work. It's the effort that is most important.