

Practicum Journal 3

Day 1:

I made it a half day, just as I did not want to overwhelm the children. I went in, talked to my mentor about the classroom. Got oriented back in. There were 5 children who left the program and moved onto Kindergarten and so we did get new children. I focused on getting a relationship with those children going and more on re-familiarizing myself with the program and the schedule. Even though I worked at Cariboo over the summer, I hadn't been in the Sage room. I worked mostly with the infant toddler programs and the after school care program.

I took the day to go over the new information, read the care plans and just get back into it.

Day 2:

Today I did a full day. I did keep it a bit more calm. However I was telling the others that it is very different to be back to being a practicum student and not staff. I keep feeling like I am just in ratio and I don't see the difference. UNTIL, there was a small moment where two similar minded children, both strong willed and stubborn were fighting over the climber. Child B was on it and child Z wanted to get on as well. Child Z kept telling child B that it was for everyone. However B just wanted to use it herself. I was there talking to both of them and reminding them to be careful of each other's bodies and trying to help the children find a way to figure out how they were going to solve the situation. B started to push and kick Z. So then I remind her that I would not let her hurt the other children. I had given her the choice to either come down or choose one side so that they both could be on it. Child B did not want to hear anything. She just wanted to at this point push child Z off. Finally me and a support worker A, both us had to intervene and get child B off of the climber. This is when I was like, I just want to be a practicum student and hide. However, I knew it had to be done.

Later child B and I went back to playing a game that we were both playing, while child Z was talking to A. Z walks over to B and tells her that she wants to play with her and even though B said she did not want to play, it looked as though Z was just trying to bait B into something. I stood by while they both spoke to each other and then after a while of not much reaction from B, Z walked away. The team I am with is so amazing, when I told them what happened we knew that they might want some space from each other for a while and we decided to split them into one of the 3 groups that our room was in. After which, both children had an amazing day.

On the more positive side I did the morning snack today and I did forget a few things, but it went well. I think it was also, because each room in Cariboo has little differences in their snack times and because I worked in the toddler programs and school age just before school, I was a little bit lost for a brief second. But pulled it all together and it went well.

Noeleane and I spoke about what I was looking to work on during this practicum, she gave me options in areas she thought would help, and I agreed with her. For most part transitions can be a bit of a challenge for me. Depending on the children and what is happening. I also let Noeleane know that I would like to work on my group time skills and asked to also look at her group time basket (it's the jackpot). Also working in the different programs this summer I have picked up quite a few ideas on what I would like to do during group time. We also spoke about me leading a walk. I have accompanied a few walks, but not led any. So to build up confidence in that area would also be of great help.

Day 3:

Today was a good day!

Noeleane and I took a group of 8 up to the hills on a walk. There were a few moments where I thought I couldn't really do this walk, if I were leading. Noeleane walked me through the whole process that she did, to get ready and during the walk. While walking up a child walked off the path and unfortunately got quite a few cacti on him and I was so nervous. However, Noeleane like the veteran that she is, just pulled them out with her hands. Both her and I were talking to the child to help relax and to not move more and get more on him.



We walked up to the summit of the hill and Noeleane used a rock to set a boundary so that the children wouldn't go to the steep end. I had never really thought of doing that. Noeleane kept

reminding the children that there is broken glass and we have to be careful while walking. All of these are things I didn't even know myself. I realized it is very important to know the place before talking the children to a location.



While we were up at the pirate ship part of the walk, we let the children have fun and explore the lands that they often visit. There were such creative stories that emerged from there. The children were making their own forts and they were using the different branches from the trees to build their fort. They were using sticks near by as a saw that they could cut the tree branches with.





While coming back down. There was a group of 3 that were holding hands and walking. Unfortunately one of the children kept pulling the other two and dragging them and eventually not really holding hands and that is a rule we have especially while crossing the road. I had to tell the child to hold my hand while we crossed the road and that it was not an option to not hold hands, he got really emotional that he was not holding his friends hands. I felt bad and later reflected on my actions, thinking if it was really something that had to be done. Would it really have been so bad to not have held his hands?

After nap time, I opened up the art table for the children who were awake to come if they wanted to. Other tables also opened up. But there was a child who stayed with me the whole time that I was at the art table for about half an hour. We were drawing puzzles and each of us would talk turns doing them. Other children also came up and really enjoyed it. I told Noeleane that I think I might make some over the weekend and bring in for the children.

When Noeleane was back from her break she set up a fun science experiment, magic milk. The children really enjoyed it for quite a while. After a while we all headed outside and enjoyed building tall towers, the yard and we have these dinosaur masks that were donated to the room by a parent, they are the latest thing in demand. The children were having such an amazing time with them this week.

Day4:

I had missed two days as I was not feeling all that well. Came back today slightly still under the weather. However, I was right back where I had left off. We had our site evacuation drill today and honestly I was a bit nervous. We've done fire drills before, but not a site evacuation where the alarm goes off and we all have to leave. Even though it was told to us beforehand and not just sprung on, I was still nervous. However, it went by smoothly and with no hiccups. It was interesting to see the children asking so many different questions, such as "What is that sound?" "Is there a real fire inside?" "Why is everyone here?" "Are we going on a walk?".

The rest of the morning went by as per usual and I was building relationships with a few of the children. I felt so excited when she wanted me to follow her and she kept coming back to me for different things.

After a nap, Noeleane gave me a bit more responsibilities. She asked if I wanted to help transition the children to outside, which went by smoothly. She then asked if I would like to wake up a few of our later sleepers, which I need to work more on. I failed to wake them up and get them out. I was telling Noeleane that I need to work more on being assertive. I have and I can see myself more sure about other things that need to be done. But it was like this sense of guilt inside me that had to ask the children to wake up. Even though I had given them the option to continue napping on the couch. It was like Noeleane was a superhero, she swooped right in and was just so gentle but firm in her words and I could see her think a second before she said the words she chose to use. As our wording really matters.

She got the children up within seconds. She asked me if I would like to keep working on it or watch her a few more times and then try. I told her she has got so many good tricks and words that I would like to watch and then right.

It was a good day. There is lot to look back and work on.

The month of October:

We kept going on walks and exploring the lands around us. There were days that we had to stay inside and in the yard. I feel as though, those days are a bit harder, as there are more emotions and frustrations.

When we did go back on the walk, we found a new spot to have our picnic. The children loved it. There were lots of flowers and plants and the children enjoyed pouring their extra water to plants and helping them.



We got invited into the new building of the trades and technology and even got invited into the woodworking classroom. The children were fascinated by seeing how the piece of wood turns into stairs. We met a parent who is a professor there as well. He told us about the room he teaches in and let us go.



The month of November:

By this time, I was also working as a part of the Sage team. I have to say that there were days that I thought I wasn't up to the mark, but that it when I would talk to Noeleane and she would let me know that sometimes, it takes a switch in educators to help the children. After which I did notice that. There were times when some children were experiencing big emotions and no matter what I tried, it wouldn't help. I would then ask another educator to switch and it would make a difference, now I know from Gary's class, that we just need to SHUT UP!

This month, I faced one of the most overwhelming moments, by far. It was when a child was sleepwalking and didn't realize what was happening, but she would just scream and hurt herself, by banging her fists on the ground and on the walls. I tried all that Noeleane had spoken to me about and again, swapping with an educator, seemed to help at those times.

I was so worried about the child hurting herself and trying to not shake and wake her, but also looking after the other children's safety. When Noeleane came back from her break, she could see that I was stressed and she spoke to me and I just broke down. I really appreciate Noeleane so much, for not only walking me through that situation but also for always guiding me and taking the time to talk to me about everything.

On my last day of practicum, I ended up doing the fire drill for November as well. I was so nervous and not sure if I did it right, but I seemed to have done it right. We also ended up going on a walk that same day and then just had a relaxed afternoon!