Richmond Tutoring Program Tutor Reflections 2010

COMPILATION OF COMMENTS: TUTORS

1) What was your favourite part of the RTP?
   • Working with the students and engaging them with their work, especially during ‘light bulb’ moments, when ideas seemed to ‘click’.
   • Helping the kids with their homework and seeing them improve so much.
   • The parts where the students had a huge grin on their face because they understood what I said.
   • Definitely getting to know the grade 4 boys. They bring a smile to my face every time I see them.
   • Knowing that I’m helping a student and the self-satisfaction from aiding the students.
   • The one-to-one teaching with the children.

2) What were the benefits/learnings for you?
   • Understanding the development of children’s learning.
   • I got to interact with an age group that I normally wouldn’t have come into contact with.
   • Being able to help children with their education, facilitating a learning environment they enjoy being in, building a good rapport with some of the children.
   • As a beginning teacher, it gave me ideas to teach students in the future.
   • Being able to work with a really nice group of kids. I learnt that the support we give improves their self-esteem so much.
   • I got to work with different types of kids and I had to act differently to different kids.
   • Knowing that I’ve made a positive difference to the grade 4 boys’ education and seeing their improvements from when I first started to now. I wish all the best for the boys.
   • Learning how to work under pressure and keeping the kids active and motivated for the period.
   • Improving my communication for the children.
   • I learnt that even though the children are very young, they still respond to a certain amount of gentle discipline.
   • It brings me memories of when I was younger.

3) What was the most challenging aspect of the RTP?
   • Keeping the kids interested and focussed.
   • Giving my attention to all the students.
   • Working with students who are not easily engaged.
   • Finding new ways of keeping the kids interested – I overcame this challenge with the help of resources.
   • Travelling about an hour each way
• Understanding the ‘Australian Way’ of solving math problems.
• When the kid doesn’t listen to you.
• Not knowing the answer to the maths questions myself… but we worked together to work it out.
• Coping with children who are a bit difficult that have learning and social interaction problems.
• Helping younger students who don’t know much about English and don’t understand the work after explanation.
• To help the students with learning difficulties.

4) **What skills do you feel you have developed from participating as a tutor at the RTP?**

• Patience, describing ideas and being able to explain ideas/concepts in different ways.
• Listening to and engaging students.
• Adaptability – being able to recognise when something isn’t working and changing methods.
• Communication and teamwork skills.
• A much better understanding and ability to deal with school children.
• Improved communication skills with young children.
• More confidence with tutoring.
• I have learnt how to relate to children and adults from a Vietnamese background.
• I have to be helpful and don’t rush them to learn.
• To be friendly and helpful to all the students.

5) **What suggestions do you have that may improve the RTP?**

• More activities for children who finish early.
• Keeping a role of the tutors who come.
• All food should be put away at 4pm – children still go to get biscuits/extra chips.
• More games (especially learning games) and any more books for students to read.
• Greater variety of tasks each week.
• We need better quality pencils. The program needs revision – that is, I think that the children should be asked to work more quietly and I think we need more tutors.
• More social activities in the last 20 minutes (instead of only Uno).
• Next year I hope to provide some worksheets for the children I tutor.
• Maybe getting more volunteers which will always be a challenge!
• I think that the tutoring could be more structured, that is that I think it needs reviewing.
• They should turn on the fans on hot days.
• They should have a bench to put bags on.
• They should have an abacus or counters to help students.
• Space the seating differently, e.g.
6) Would you volunteer as a tutor next year at RTP?

- I would love to, if the time permitted me with a full-time job.
- If my timetable allows it.
- Unfortunately, I finish my degree this year and plan to travel next year so won’t be able to tutor.
- Certainly! It was a wonderful experience.
- Yes.
- Absolutely! Even to go up with the boys for something different or tutor 2011’s grade 4s.
- Yes, as long as it doesn’t clash with work or uni.
- I may consider it.

7) What message do you have for the coordinators?

- Thank you for all your help. You all made me welcome here.
- Great program for the kids. Would love to be part of future programs. Possibly a reading program with tutors.
- Great job on organising this program. It is such a success.
- You’ve done a great job at putting the program together!
- Great work! Tremendous support! The parties were great!
- Thank you for an amazing experience. I feel I have developed and well on the road to becoming a teacher with confidence!! THANK-YOU! It has been a pleasure getting to know and meet you all.
- Awesome job guys! Keep it up.
- Wonderful work as a team! Congratulations!

8) Rate your level of enjoyment participating in the RTP.

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