

Mutual Relationships: A Poem About My Growth as a New Teacher

Learning to become a teacher has been an incredible journey
Thanks to this program, I feel I am now worthy

I would like to share a story about my growth as a teacher
Because learning how to connect with students is what makes me eager

In this program, we learned about differentiated instruction and a universal
design for learning
During my practicum, I recognized the importance of these concepts emerging

In my class, I had two little boys who struggled with writing and reading
It took me a while to recognize what these boys were needing

I was nervous and inexperienced at the beginning of the practicum
So much so, that differentiated instruction was something I could not fathom

One day my mentor came for a visit and was extremely kind
But he mentioned that perhaps, these two boys were left behind

His words were not taken lightly and fueled a fire in me
Because I had grown to care deeply for my students and all of their needs

While my connections with these two boys were strong
I needed them to feel during learning time that they belonged

As the weeks went on I knew what I had to do
For these two boys, I would have to differentiate my instruction to break
through

It took some extra effort and was a challenge
But the two boys were provided different ways to demonstrate their
understanding

I was able to learn that these two boys were incredibly unique and bright
And learning with them over the ten weeks was an absolute delight

By the end of the practicum, I felt transformed
I felt refreshed, excited, eager, and informed

I immediately knew how this career is internally rewarding
And how it has the ability to be impactful and informing

This program has helped me confirm that I have made the right career choice
And I will always strive to do positive things with my newfound teaching
voice

I didn't realize just how much of an impact a teacher can make
until the last day of practicum when there was a lot of heart ache

The kids were sad to see me go and I was not ready to say goodbye
I didn't want my time with these kids to end, I cannot deny

They told me "congratulations" as we all cried
I thanked them for being a part of my journey and for always being on my side

This was the moment I knew what kind of teacher I want to be
One who cares about her students and all they can be

Because my most impactful realization as we said goodbye was when I was
able to see,
that because I cared about my students, my students cared about me

