

Hannah Bradt

Mr. Speice

ISM 3A

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Interview Assessment 5

Jennifer Stripling

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Planting Seeds Counseling and Coaching

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For my fifth and final required interview, I decided to meet with Jennifer Stripling of Planting Seeds Counseling and Coaching, a play therapist who specializes in children's therapy. Although Vanessa Sanford, who I conducted my third interview with, was also a children's therapist, I was focusing on a different aspect of teaching. With Ms. Sanford, I was focusing mainly on Brené Brown's teaching based on shame and guilt, while with Mrs. Stripling, I was focusing more strongly on the ways that a teacher can interact with children in a classroom setting, especially in a way that allows them to experiment with their creative outlets, while at the same time remaining safe and engaged.

Throughout this interview, I was able to gain a great amount of new information based on what I had originally hoped for. The most helpful topic that I was able to learn about was that of "different types of smart." This is an idea that says that some students may excel in one topic while other students excel in another topic, and presents many ways to help students understand

this idea, as they may begin to feel shame if they do not feel that they are ‘as good’ as another student in a variety of subjects. Because schools in the Frisco school district seem to have a main purpose of focusing on preparing students for STAAR tests, students are left feeling very shameful if their testing scores are not as high as their peers. Because of this, the different kinds of smart help students to focus on outside aspects, rather than only on ‘school smart.’

Mrs. Stripling emphasized the need for children to have the ability to move around and interact with other students in a classroom setting, rather than being expected to sit in chairs and pay attention to what is happening for hours on end. Because of this, I plan to create a music classroom setting where students will be allowed to creatively express themselves, rather than being confined to a desk and chair. Along with this, it is important for a teacher to get to know their students. One method of doing this, which will be fairly simple for a music teacher, is to learn about students through play and interaction during class time. Because of this, I plan to create some small games or activities that will allow students to interact with me as well as one another. During these games, it is important to maintain control in the classroom so that students do not get injured. A key factor in maintaining safety is to identify which students tend to have the most energy, which students tend to wander around, and finally which students require the most guidance. Aside from this, if a student should need to receive criticism, it is important to phrase criticism positively rather than in a shaming way. For example, if a student is neglecting to keep their hands to themselves, a teacher may say, “Your hands are for gestures right now, not for touching your friend.”

My fifth interview was very successful overall, and may have been one of the most beneficial in increasing my knowledge and understanding of the field that I hope to pursue.