

After analyzing my class's data, I feel that there are areas that each child can improve upon and strengthen, but as a class, I could not point out one particular aspect of learning. Children grow and develop at different rates so it is hard to find an area of improvement where all children need to progress. As a teacher, I would look at each individual child's strengths and weaknesses and see where they need the most help. I would cater to individual needs of my students by creating strategies that meet that child's needs.

In my first grade class of 17 students, there is only one student who is below the targeted proficiency level in reading. The teacher and I work together to help her with reading and oral skills, pulling her for guided reading, and assisting her in hearing and recognizing words so that she can read more fluently. I have seen improvement in this student since the beginning of the year as she has now moved on to a level 4 in reading. I think the strategies that have helped this students' reading ability increase is just giving her the opportunity to read, talk about what she read, comprehension of the text, practicing her sight words, etc. I think it is important, as a teacher, to provide all students with the opportunity to learn and to better themselves. Students should never feel as if they are the lowest in the class or in the worst reading group. They should be positively reinforced when reading so that they build a sense of confidence which is a positive aspect in learning. My teacher and I make it a point to meet with this child every day in reading groups so that her fluency becomes stronger and her reading

abilities strengthen. I created about 100 sight word flashcards for this student, so that she could work on these skills at home as well as in school.

Another area that was looked at through my data was homework completion. While the majority of the class turned in their homework and received full credit for completion, there are a few students who repeatedly miss homework opportunities by not turning in assignments. Looking at my data, SXXX and MXXX received no credit for 3-4 assignments because they said “their parents forgot to put it in their bag,” which was an unacceptable excuse for not turning in one’s homework. We explained to the students that it was their responsibility to do their homework, complete it on time, and make sure it gets back to school the next day. Their parents are not the one in our first grade class and therefore, the students need to remember to put it in their backpack at night and bring it in the next day. HXXX is one student who rarely turns in her homework and when she does, it is done without any effort and is very messy. I talked to her about this and she told me that she doesn’t get help from her parents at home and has many places to go in the evening and doesn’t have the time to do her work. I talked to the teacher and she said she would call home and see if there was anything we could do to assist this child in getting her homework done efficiently and in a timely manner. I now try to work with this student at the end of the day, to start her work so that she is more confident in going home and finishing it on her own. This has resulted positively as she has started to bring back more of her homework.

Looking at the math scores for my first grade class, I see that the scores are not too bad but could be improved significantly. Overall, the scores range from 7 – 14, with no perfect scores of 14. Many of the first grade math concepts are age appropriate and

the activities and learning styles we choose to implement upon our students are developmentally appropriate for this age. The students seem to understand and recognize the importance of math, the ways we use it, different strategies for solving problems, etc. During whole group, the students are always eager and enthusiastic about volunteering to solve problems or provide answers. I feel that many of the students may have test anxiety because they get so anxious and nervous before quizzes and assessments. I think this can really hinder a child's ability to do well on a test. I have understood that it is hard for students to get homework done if there are issues in the home environment that are interfering with the student's ability to perform as well as they do in class. My teacher and I sent home a tip sheet for parents that provide hints, ideas, and suggestions in making the child's homework experience an enjoyable and educational time. We have also begun a reward system where if the child brings in their homework consistently and on time for a week, they get a homework award on Friday. This really gets students to make sure their homework is done on time and placed in the homework bin so that they can take home an award illustrating their high achievement.

There is an enormous amount of data that can be collected from this class but it was all that I could analyze based on my knowledge and what I have acquired from my mentor teacher. Overall, we have a great class with aspiring students. Their scores represent proficiency and knowledge, which is a key factor in the development of children.