

**Title of Session:** Teachers in Training

**Moderator:** Dianne Allen

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Room: Teachers in Training Group

**DianneA:** don't worry about typos .. at least I don't

**EdithA** smiles...

**DianneA:** they are part of being here and engaging effectively here

**PamelaEC:** Good, that will help out :-)

**DianneA:** OK so let's start with a round of introductions ... where are you from and what kind of teaching are you looking forward to or engaging with at the moment?

**DianneA:** I am from Wollongong Australia, and my forte is professional development

**PamelaEC:** I attend the University of Houston and in my student teaching. I just started in a 2nd grade class this week and the past 5 weeks i was in a Kindergarten class

**EdithA:** I'm Houston, Texas. I'm doing my student teaching in a second grade classroom

**IngridV:** I'm from Houston currently student teaching at a Pre-K center

**DianneA:** thanks Pamela, Edith

**DianneA:** Thanks Ingrid

**DianneA:** how about you Mark?

**DianneA:** welcome Mireya

**MireyaR:** Hello

**MireyaR:** Thank you

**DianneA:** and our Teachers in Training session

**DianneA:** we are starting with a round of introductions ... where are you from and what kind of teaching are you looking forward to or engaging with at the moment?

**DianneA:** a tip before we go much further ....

**MireyaR:** I am a student teacher from the University of Houston and am currently teaching first grade.

**DianneA:** see the Actions menu in the top left hand corner of this chat space ...

**MireyaR:** yes

**PamelaEC:** Yes I see it

**DianneA:** click on that and scroll down and click on larger text to make the chat easier to read

**IngridV:** Super!

**EdithA:** ok

**MireyaR:** Cool

**DianneA:** and then repeat the process, this time clicking on DETACH to give a larger chat space to keep up with the conversation

**PamelaEC:** Looks good

**MireyaR:** o.k.

**EdithA:** got it...

**DianneA:** Ok, unless Mark is from somewhere else, it looks like Houston wins the competition for representation today

**DianneA:** so my next question is this ...

**EdithA:** great :)

**DianneA:** does anyone have a current and pressing practice concern that they would like to raise here for peer discussion ... to collect ideas about how else they might tackle what is concerning them?

**MireyaR:** classroom management

**DianneA:** well ...

**PamelaEC:** Well, since we are all teachers in training do you guys find it easier or harder to implement the great ideas we have learned to teach?

**DianneA:** Mireya and Pamela save the day

**PamelaEC:** Yes classroom management does seem to come more into practice and I have learned soooo much more by being in an actual classroom

**EdithA:** some times it is really hard to actually implement such ideas...

**DianneA:** Pamela, sounds like you might have something in mind that you have tried and hasn't worked

**IngridV:** definitely

**DianneA:** would you like to elaborate

**EdithA:** you are right , Pam

**PamelaEC:** It seems the teachers I am with have their ideas and so does the school

**DianneA** nods

**IngridV:** and you feel stuck having to do their routine their way?

**PamelaEC:** Usually they have to follow what curriculum instructors or districts want you to do

**MireyaR:** I totally agree. with Ingrid.

**DianneA** nods to Ingrid

**DianneA:** can we look then at a particular example ...

**PamelaEC:** Really you have to fit into their routine so there is not a split classroom in management

**DianneA:** can each of you describe what has happened that raises this issue for you?

**PamelaEC:** Well the math curriculum is online and they have to go by what the district wants you to do and they give you the activities to do as well

**IngridV:** with pre-k it's all about routine so I feel like since it's already established I can't really deviate from that

**IngridV:** all the teachers do the same thing

**MireyaR:** Yes I agree.

**PamelaEC:** What do they learn?

**DianneA:** especially as you are only there for a short period of time?

**EdithA:** yeah

**PamelaEC:** Yes exactly

**IngridV:** yep, short time. It feels like "playing" teacher.

**EdithA:** I guess if I would have been there since the beginning of the semester, it would be different...

**PamelaEC:** I think I have learned more about classroom management more than implementing great lessons

**DianneA:** how is this different from the 'great ideas' you have been getting at teacher training?

**MireyaR:** I just add more to the lesson plan, but it can be very time consuming.

**DianneA** starts to scratch her head and think about her early teaching experience ...

**PamelaEC:** Well in teaching training they want the curriculum to be fun and very STUDENT CENTERED, but there is such a demand for the curriculum to be taught they way they want

**DianneA** remembers early teaching being a bit more open in Australia than that, but that was nearly 40 years ago ...

**DianneA:** and teaching and responsibility levels and curriculum pressures have changed since then

**PamelaEC:** Maybe it's because in Texas the schools are very Test oriented

**EdithA:** Well, at school they have taught us that students learn by hands-on activities, and the other day I heard one of the teachers at my school saying that the best way a child can learn is by being sitting down all the time...

**MireyaR:** I sometimes feel that there is not enough time in a day to teach all the subjects.

**PamelaEC:** I do too

**IngridV:** I agree

**EdithA:** She did not believed in hands-on activities...

**PamelaEC:** When I was in school I felt like I was taught all the subjects in one day

**PamelaEC:** but I don't know how to fit it all in now

**DianneA** remembers testing being a huge pressure for completing the content of a curriculum and not leaving much time to pace and respond to children's real interests

**EdithA:** yeah, it's really hard....

**IngridV:** I think it has to be done with integrated activities

**IngridV:** but I haven't seen much of those

**PamelaEC:** I haven't either

**EdithA:** me neither....

**PamelaEC:** I would like to do that, but again it's the teachers class and I have to do what her team is doing

**IngridV:** I have felt the same way

**MireyaR:** My current teacher integrates her subject.

**IngridV:** is it successful?

**PamelaEC:** Really? Does the team do the same?

**MireyaR:** Well this is barely my first week there.

**IngridV:** right.

**EdithA:** well, what I do, is just ask her what plans she has for the following week and just try to kind of use my own ideas, as well

**MireyaR:** Although this week she integrated writer's workshop with social studies.

**IngridV:** That's a good approach, Edith

**EdithA:** yeah, that's how I did it during my last rotation

**PamelaEC:** Interesting

**MireyaR:** I did the same thing.

**PamelaEC:** In what subjects?

**ShayneTr:** My daughter is taking over... she's a teacher in training.

**MireyaR:** Luckily my teacher was open to my ideas.

**EdithA:** yeah, mine was too

**IngridV:** I don't feel like my teacher would be open to it at all now

**EdithA:** we got to work like a team...

**IngridV:** that sounds great.

**EdithA:** I just hope I can do the same for this second rotation...

**EdithA:** though so far, I think it will :)

**DianneA:** Ingrid, what is suggesting to you that your teacher is not open to your ideas?

**PamelaEC:** I think I will try, hopefully we will have the time

**MireyaR:** Mine , too. :)

**IngridV:** I haven't really suggested anything yet, it's my first week. But she seems very critical. She's already told me who she thinks is a good teacher and who is a bad one

**DianneA:** How long is this second rotation for you?

**EdithA** smiles...

**IngridV:** 7 weeks

**DianneA:** what was the main thing you gathered from your first rotation?

**EdithA:** collaboration

**PamelaEC:** I learned time and classroom management

**IngridV:** me too

**PamelaEC:** Ohh collaboration too, with planning with the other teachers

**EdithA:** my teacher and I knew planned the lesson together

**EdithA** don't pay attention to "I knew"

**IngridV:** got it

**DianneA:** . o O ( yes I close up quickly when someone is critical, and of others )

**MireyaR:** Also, all the little things teachers have to do in the morning or afternoon.

**IngridV:** it adds pressure

**MireyaR:** Like lunch count, attendance, or duties.

**PamelaEC:** definitely, meeting after meeting. Is that usual?

**DianneA:** and this is your first week of your second rotation?

**EdithA:** yeah...

**IngridV:** yes

**EdithA:** yes

**MireyaR:** yes

**PamelaEC:** Yes

**PamelaEC:** But it's in the same school

**DianneA:** so what is different about this time round from your first week of your first rotation?

**MireyaR:** The teachers are very different.

**DianneA:** in what way Mireya?

**IngridV:** I just feel sort of intimidated by my teacher

**EdithA:** well, I'm at a different school, with a new teacher, and a new grade level

**IngridV:** me too

**MireyaR:** My second rotation teacher wanted me to start teaching this week.

**IngridV:** what grade?

**MireyaR:** first

**PamelaEC:** It's a busier schedule

**EdithA:** well, mine actually allowed to teach a mini lesson the first day

**MireyaR:** wow

**IngridV:** I've gotten to do art with my pre-k students. Handful.

**EdithA:** nice...

**PamelaEC:** I bet, I was in Kinder and I can relate

**MireyaR:** my second teacher seems to be more unorganized.

**MireyaR:** Me , too.

**EdithA:** yeah, me too

**MireyaR:** Although, I can tell my teacher really cares about her kids.

**IngridV:** that's great.

**DianneA:** how's that Mireya

**EdithA:** that's something very positive

**PamelaEC:** That's nice, does your unorganization effect you ?

**MireyaR:** She hugs her student's everyday .

**PamelaEC:** how sweet

**MireyaR:** She also asks them how they are feeling everyday.

**IngridV:** that's good.

**EdithA:** during my first rotation my teacher would greet the students every day

**MireyaR:** The students come in and hug me, too.

**IngridV:** at the door?

**PamelaEC:** That's really good. That's something I want to work on-building relationships with the students

**MireyaR:** No she sits at her desk and gives them their take home folders .

**EdithA:** we had a little apron and would go around the classroom asking each student how he wanted to be greeted...like a butterfly, star or princess/prince

**IngridV:** that's cute

**DianneA:** and do you see any indications that this makes a difference in the classroom, Mireya?

**EdithA:** yeah, that was Pre-K

**MireyaR:** Yes

**DianneA:** can you describe those differences?

**MireyaR:** They seem to care what the teacher thinks of them.

**IngridV:** that's true. They love their teacher

**MireyaR:** Also, many times the students will continue to be on task.

**PamelaEC:** That does make a big difference on how they respond to you

**IngridV:** today, a student refused to let me help him open his milk...he wanted the teacher to do it

**IngridV:** because she's "his favorite" ; )

**IngridV:** it was cute.

**EdithA:** don't worry Ingrid, I think that once he gets to know you, he will let you help him...

**MireyaR:** My teacher feels that she has to give the students that special attention because many times they may not get hugs or attention at home.

**IngridV:** that's true. we have no idea what they go home to

**EdithA:** and she is SO right....

**PamelaEC:** That is very true. I have students that don't get picked up from the babysitter til 10 at night

**DianneA:** so does this mean I wouldn't be far out if I said that 'classroom management' is as much about 'relationship' as it is about 'organization'?

**EdithA:** wow...

**IngridV:** yes.

**MireyaR:** I would agree.

**PamelaEC:** Definitely

**EdithA:** I agree

**IngridV:** Some teachers have warned me not to be too nice though

**DianneA:** and so what would the implications be for you when you start teaching and have a class on your own?

**DianneA:** How would you want to establish those classroom relationships?

**IngridV:** I want to set the rules and start off firm...then be "nicer" as they learn the routine

**MireyaR:** I think that is a good idea.

**PamelaEC:** I have actually seen that with many of the Kindergarten teachers and it works

**EdithA:** that exactly what I wanted to say, Ingrid

**MireyaR:** I heard that a teacher at my school did not smile for the first two weeks of school.

**PamelaEC:** They started out really mean, but now i see them play and have fun with the students while keeping their rules in tact

**DianneA:** Might you check in with your teachers and find out if that is what they think, and how they went about it, at first?

**IngridV:** that would be a good idea.

**MireyaR:** I agree.

**PamelaEC:** Good idea

**EdithA:** yeah, that's exactly what my first teacher told me

**IngridV:** my teacher said she had to tame her little wild ones ;)

**IngridV:** I need to find out how

**IngridV:** I'm afraid of making them cry

**IngridV:** they are babies in pre-k...very sensitive

**DianneA** suspects that if she asks a good teacher she will find that there is no one way to tame ...

**MireyaR:** I had one little one cry when I told her to change her clip and this was a kindergartener.

**PamelaEC:** I think they will be fine if they do. They are very sensitive, it's their nature- but you have to teach them right from wrong

**EdithA:** how sad... Mireya

**EdithA:** you are right, Pam

**MireyaR:** I felt so bad.

**MireyaR:** Although she never cried again.

**PamelaEC:** I know, it hurts my heart to hear them cry too

**IngridV:** yes

**MireyaR:** I also encouraged her to do better the next day.

**EdithA:** That's good...

**PamelaEC:** I'm glad you said that. True you have to remind them that they can continue to try and do better.

**IngridV:** I had to tell a little girl that today

**IngridV:** she said she couldn't write her letters

**IngridV:** it's hard when a student sees that everyone else can do something and they feel they can't

**IngridV:** pre-k is too early to feel defeated

**MireyaR:** I have a little boy in first grade that sits in class all day and does nothing.

**EdithA:** been there Ingrid

**IngridV:** what does your teacher do?

**MireyaR:** Well she has sat next to him, but she can not do that everyday.

**IngridV:** any consequences? motivations?

**PamelaEC:** I had a student like that too

**MireyaR:** I sat with him yesterday and encouraged him to do his work.

**EdithA:** Does he do anything when she is with him?

**MireyaR:** He did his work when i sat next to him.

**IngridV:** sometimes praising the other students around him works

**MireyaR:** but I could tell he felt forced to do his work

**EdithA:** so, he needs to be encouraged at all time...

**PamelaEC:** Oh so he can do his work he just chooses not to...

**MireyaR:** yes

**EdithA:** interesting.....

**BJB2** looks at the clock on the wall

**DianneA** notes the dilemma of a large class and giving individual students time to support their learning

**DianneA:** Thanks BJ ...

**PamelaEC:** Maybe some kind of reward for doing well???

**MireyaR:** This is also his second year in first grade.

**DianneA:** yes can we wind up today's discussion by considering what has been the highlight for you today of this discussion?

**EdithA:** Oh...

**IngridV:** learning that I'm not alone ; )

**DianneA:** Good Ingrid that is helpful

**EdithA:** We are all in the same boat...

**DianneA:** so Edith has had the same highlight ..

**EdithA:** Definitely...

**PamelaEC:** Also maybe we there is room to integrate your special lessons with the ones we have to do

**MireyaR:** It is important to develop a great relationship with the students.

**DianneA:** Thanks Pamela

**DianneA:** Thanks Mireya

**PamelaEC:** Definitely - I agree and will work on that

**IngridV:** me too

**EdithA:** me, too

**DianneA:** so three important take home lessons from sharing, and perhaps the other one for Tapped In is the fact that as a professional organization this is where you might continue to be supported as you learn to teach

**DianneA:** All the best then with your second rotation

**MireyaR:** Thank you

**IngridV:** thanks

**EdithA:** Thank

**PamelaEC:** Thank you

**DianneA:** I will be here again in a month's time to share some more of where you are up to and how it is going

**MireyaR:** ok

**PamelaEC:** Sounds great, I will look out for that

**IngridV:** bye!

**DianneA:** bye for now

**EdithA:** bye!

**MireyaR:** bye

**PamelaEC:** Bye Bye