Internship with Dr. Brownlee at Tree of Life Preschool Academy
Internship with Dr. Brownlee

This project took place at Tree of Life Preschool and consisted of an internship with Dr. Brownlee that applied to my major, Education. The internship took place every Friday from 10 to 11 am working with the children attending the preschool, by helping them meet certain reading levels. It soon became a routine for them as I was able to build relationships with them as well as get them to set some time aside from play time for their improvement in reading. Every week I would read to about ten kids and allow them to engage not only in what we were reading but also the illustrations in the book which is a crucial aspect of children’s literature overall. I will be explaining why early reading is of huge importance as well as using a SWOT analysis to further explain what the internship consisted of in much more detail.
Importance of reading to children

- Supported cognitive development
- Improved language skills
- Increased concentration and discipline
- Improved imagination and creativity
- Many more!
Pre-Evaluation

In the beginning, I noticed some confusion in their faces when they saw that they now had someone to read their booklets with. The booklet we read was referred to as their M-A-T booklet consisting of three letter words using the letters M, A, T, and S. I never wanted the children to feel pressured, thus if a child did not want to read that was completely okay, as I knew that not everyone feels comfortable right from the start. I noticed that some students would guess the letters and make up a story along the way. This is when I had to readdress the alphabet and play a round of repetition before we started the story just to reassure that they now knew what each letter is and what sound each letter makes. According to LBL school, research shows that during the ages of 2 and 3 their mind is just as active as an adult (Lblreaders). Thus, this means that it is not too late for them to start reading, if anything it is the perfect time to start!
SWOT Analysis

A SWOT analysis is an acronym that stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. It can often be seen as a quadrant template, but it is effectively used as a tool to organize and identify all four attributes in an assessment. Using this approach, I will describe and organize what I have identified at Tree of Life Preschool, during my time there. This will include the student’s performance, the staff, the setting, and the “program” overall.
### (S) Strengths

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<th>Students</th>
<th>Staff</th>
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<td>• Routines - built a routine.</td>
<td>• Independence - allowed for time with the student directly.</td>
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<td>• Relationships - built bonds with students over reading.</td>
<td>• Assistance - provided assistance when needed.</td>
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<td>• Improvement - was able to see improvement within the student’s reading skills.</td>
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## (W) Weaknesses

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<td>• Student Engagement - was difficult to help them focus sometimes because of their surroundings</td>
<td>• Lack of communication between the staff and myself when keeping track of the students progress. More of an issue with time than with the staff themselves.</td>
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### (O) Opportunities

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| • Greatest opportunity of all I have received was the experience. I was able to gain experience working with students as this will help me prepare for future practicums. | • Connections with the staff - able to use them later on in my career for networking.  
• Leadership - I was able to independently work with students and get them on board for reading. |
(T) Threats

Throughout the internship there weren’t many threats. However, the weaknesses could be a disadvantage as we do not have any follow up set up for the students. It is understandable that sometimes a classroom can be too busy to give each individual student the attention they need, thus taking this individual reading session from them could be a potential setback if there is no post follow up.
Post-Evaluation

Overall, by the end of the program I had read to all students at least once, some more than once. After every classroom visit I would see more and more students eager to read! I had students asking me to read which was very different compared to when we started. I was also able to see that more students were able to recognize most of their alphabet and sounds of the letters. Towards the end, I would now be able to give them some leadership to start reading the book and only help and guide where they needed. I had a group of students who were advanced and are now able to start a new booklet.
**Conclusion**

In Conclusion, starting off majority of the children were not able to completely read the booklet independently and were struggling to identify some of the alphabet. We took time to work with them and bond over reading and were left with the result of them being proficient in knowing some of their alphabet as well as blending some words. They have improved so much from the beginning until now and have been doing better at keeping their focus while reading. Overall, this internship has helped me in many ways like gaining experience as well as working in an area designated to my career. I was able to help by giving the students my time and a head start to prepare them for their educational pathway!


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