

When working with the 6th and 7th grade students I think it really taught me the importance of patience and flexibility. While I didn't have a direct teaching role, as an observer it was easy to tell when the students were engaged and when they weren't. I learned through the people who took on those teacher roles how to engage students in certain activities. I learned how not every student is going to react to certain activities or situations in the same ways. I think I also learned how no matter how much planning we can do, we never truly know what is going to happen. This teaches us to be flexible and be able to react quickly when something doesn't go as planned. I also think that our goal of making the world a better place through community really helped me look at this experience in a different way. It made me realize how truly important community is, no matter the age of the students. Overall, I think this experience helped reinforce my passion and love for helping kids. I think one thing that I could have improved on was being a bit more confident in certain situations with the kids. Again, I only have an observer role, but it felt like it could have been beneficial to step in when the students were in question. Some students asked questions as we were moving from place to place, but I doubted myself and my answers so I allowed others to speak. Confidence is an important skill to have when working with children when working with them academically and personally.