

## Case One Synthesis

Dear Journal,

I've got lots to think about. I barely got any sleep last night because I was excited, but also a little nervous. I still can't get that lady's voice out of my head..."all they did was play." What's wrong with play? How can I prove to her that play is beneficial for children? There are so many avenues of play that I could incorporate in my classroom. We could sing songs, we could read books, we could use apps on iPads which I hope are in my budget for this year. The *Full Day Kindergarten Plan* that Mr. Rodriguez gave me even says that we shouldn't rush children into academics! We as educators need to focus on their overall development. Maybe I can give her a copy of it as well? Or will she take it the wrong way? Maybe she won't understand it. After all, there are some terms in there that are pretty intimidating. She was also really concerned about math skills. Well in my classroom I plan to emphasize one to one correspondence and manipulatives will help with that skill. I can finally put that big jar of buttons to good use! This could be an activity I can share with her at Meet the Teacher Night!

I also plan to consult with Syd more on building classroom community. Perhaps I could make a survey for the children and caregivers on their cultural background and the languages that they speak in their homes on the first day. That way I have a better idea of how to conduct my teachings in the classroom. I know for sure I want to create a classroom blog or a newsletter so that I can get families involved in their child's learning. I'll take a survey at Meet the Teacher night if they prefer web based or print. As long as it is easily accessible to them. Maybe Syd can share some ideas, or even be a guest in my class about social justice for kindergarteners. There's a great play called "The Snake and the Frog" that I think would be perfect for the age level of my students. It's perfect because the children can see that animals are visibly different, but they can get along just fine.

There's also Sam who would be a great resource for Indigenous Education. I have a copy of "The Little Hummingbird" and I would love to share it with the students. I want to show them the values of Indigenous peoples. The book is great for displaying themes of family and nature which invites opportunities for the students to share about their own families and how they view nature. I think that in order to make this a successful year, I shouldn't be afraid to talk with other teachers. Staff meetings are important and all of them are valuable resources. When I meet all the families at Meet the Teacher Night, I'll see if any of them have any ideas for field trips or even who wants to volunteer. I want to establish that relationship with them and make them and their child feel comfortable approaching me. Lots to do for the month of September!

Write again soon,  
Miss M.