Formal Observation Reflection

Overall, I am pleased with the lesson that I taught today. In this lesson, I provided an introductory look at basic algebra, including how to translate algebraic expressions and how to discover/define a variable. In Mrs. Dunn’s math group, there are several students who have learning disabilities, as well as other factors that may hinder their comprehension (such as language barriers). With this group, I knew there would be challenges. However, I wanted to create a lesson that was easy for them to understand, yet engaging enough to motivate the students to actually want to learn the content.

There are several strengths that I believe arose during my lesson. One in which I am very pleased with is the amount of engagement that came from the students. I feel that with this particular group it is extremely important to get their attention and keep it. By using technology through online videos, a PowerPoint, the Promethean board, AND hands on manipulates, such as the personal white boards and algebraic expression cards sorts, the students remained actively involved throughout the entire lesson. Additionally, I was very pleased with the behavior from the students. Typically, this particular class is much less enthused and often unmotivated to learn.

Though there were many great things that came from the lesson, there are also several things that I would correct or improve before teaching again. First, I was a little concerned about my time management skills. There were multiple problems/examples that I didn’t get to, and I was running short on time at the end as well. Within this same area, I would spend a little more time discussing and working through subtraction and division problems. After reviewing the students’ work, they are having a few problems with these two areas. Tomorrow, I am going to spend some time reteaching variables with division and variables with subtraction. Additionally, I need to work in some real world connections that will help the students apply these concepts to their everyday lives.

In the end, I am pleased with my lesson. I am very glad that I had the opportunity to teach. It was a great feeling to see the light bulbs going off, and to see the students really making connections.