I performed my Mentoring Project at Winchester, KY. I worked with Kindergarteners to fourth graders in various subjects and tasks. My mentoring hours varied from one to two hours per session with these students over a two-week period from May 16 – May 30, 2002.

In the time that I spent with these students at the after school tutoring mentoring program called Latchkey, I dealt with many different students. There were children who had the ability to cooperate and behave well. There were many other children who had behavior disorders.

The children involved in this project were challenging to work with at times. They would become very restless after a long day at school. The children would be at school all day and then stay after school until one of their parents came to pick them up; most of the students staying until 6:00 p.m.

On my first day I helped Kindergartners with their spelling worksheets sent home for homework. They were cooperative and liked my presence, since I was helping them. An assistant and me took a group of first graders inside the gym for free time for about 15 minutes. There we practiced our locomotor and non-locomotor skills. By the time we walked back to our room, their parents were waiting. On the second day I decided to devote myself helping the second graders with their math problem sets. When we were finished with the math homework, my supervisor handed out snacks for the children after a long day they were hungry.

Throughout the rest of the week the children became even friendlier and invited me to join in their playtime outside. After school the students get a little free time to themselves to relieve anxieties and restlessness out of them before we begin our time inside. I worked with the fourth graders at the end of the week. I helped in such areas as social studies, math, reading, reading comprehension, and science with these students. They had more homework than the younger grades, thus making it a better opportunity to help them and keep them on task.

My last week helping with these children was pretty fun. It was the last week of school for them so of course they did not have any homework. To keep them busy my supervisor, assistant, and I set up centers and made crafts with them after school. The children loved the centers we set up mainly because they had a summer theme and every center tested their knowledge on a different subject. The students loved the crafts more than anything. We made a fish aquarium and a shoe monster. During my last visit, the children were very excited because this was their last day of school. Of course my supervisor felt we should let them have fun so they watched a movie and went outside afterwards.

From this project I have learned that there are many different levels of students. Within this program I witnessed students on at least five different levels. I believe I would find it difficult as a teacher to modify after school activities to fit an entire group of students. I like working one on one with students and enjoying their time. It is amazing what a good teacher can get done with such a variety of students.

I feel that the Mentoring Project has helped with my knowledge of classroom routine and the challenging work that has to be done to keep the classroom under control. I hope that I can take what I have learned about teaching and mentoring from this experience and use it when I become a teacher. I believe that it would be very beneficial to my classroom management skills and tasking skills.